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The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

2020 Year in Review inside

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Snowshoe festival cancelled

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The County of Haliburton has cancelled Hike Haliburton: Winter Edition, the county-run snowshoe festival that had been scheduled to take place in February.

Back in October, county councillors had enthusiastically and unanimously approved going ahead with the festival, which offers a series of guided snowshoe hikes throughout the county. The event is a spin-off of the popular Hike Haliburton Festival, which takes place each September, but was cancelled in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winter edition, which had been scheduled to take place Feb. 6 and 7 and would have been the second annual event, was going to have COVID-19 safety protocols in place, including pre-registration and contact tracing. However, with rising daily confirmed case numbers in the province and with Ontario currently under a government-mandated lockdown affecting some businesses, the county issued a cancellation notice in late December.

"We understand that this announcement will be disappointing to many, however with the current provincial lockdown and unknowns regarding future public health guidelines, we feel it is in the best interest for the health and safety of our community to cancel the event," the notice read. "Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the event planning to date. We look forward to better news ahead and an exciting 2022 event."



Revving up the rail trail

Minden residents Nick Daw and Wes London took some time over the holidays to enjoy a ride on the B103, also known as the rail trail. /KAREN LONDON Staff

County continues to investigate transportation options

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Haliburton County council continues to investigate options for some kind of public transportation system, and county staff are recommending that the county create a bylaw at the upper-tier level that would allow it to more easily enter into agreements with service providers.

During a Dec. 16 county council meeting, councillors heard from tourism director Amanda Virtanen, who noted staff had been in discussions with a shared-ride service provider who'd been interested in creating a pilot project for the county, geared toward tourists, which would have operated between May and October of 2020. "As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the provider wasn't able to continue discussions due to a lack of internal resources," Virtanen said. As a result, Virtanen said staff had then approached a different shared-ride service provider about the creation of a pilot project for the county, with the company providing a business plan for the county's consideration.

That plan was discussed by county council during a closed session on Nov. 25. According to Virtanen's report, the reason that discussion was held in-camera was that it met provincial criteria pertaining to, "a trade secret

see SHARED-RIDE page 2

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Marina closes following COVID-19 exposure

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

The Christmas Day message posted to the Big Hawk Lake Marina Facebook page was not a traditional festive greeting – instead, it shared news that staff had likely been infected with COVID-19.

“We at the marina have had an exposure to a confirmed positive case of COVID-19,” it read. “We are also experiencing mild symptoms at this time. We will have ourselves tested for confirmation in [the] next few days. However, we must isolate and quarantine the marina until further notice.”

Sabrina Richards said in posting, she wanted their customers to know they wouldn’t be able to access the supplies they need from the Algonquin Highlands marina if they were arriving during the holidays.

“We knew people were coming up here for snowmobiling over the holidays and expected us to be open for gas and for whatever. We knew there was a number of them heading up just shortly after the holidays, Boxing Day ... so, we wanted to basically let everybody know so they could bring whatever they needed from town, whether it be jerry cans of gas for their snowmobiles ... because we wouldn’t be open.”

Richards said her household of four adults started experiencing mild symptoms of COVID-19 on Christmas Eve, a few days after two family members who had visited on Dec. 19 began experiencing symptoms.

“We had some family over,” she said. “A couple of days after they were here, they notified us that they had symptoms and got tested and they were positive. And it was probably a couple of days after they told us that they had symptoms that we started to have symptoms. They live in the city, and we don’t know how they got it, they don’t know how they got it, but you know, that’s how it is.”

Richards said the family members were visiting to have Christmas together, and kept their celebration under the 10 people legal gathering limit regulation for people living in green-prevent, yellow-protect and orange-restrict regions put in place by the province in their guidelines for gatherings and winter holiday celebrations.

“We were under the 10 so we thought we were OK, but, you know, it happened,” she said.

Upon hearing from family members that they were experiencing symptoms, with one receiving positive test results on Christmas Day, Richards said she posted to customers

on the public Facebook page, after personally alerting anyone who might have come into contact with her or her family between the visit and the notification of symptoms. Though Richards said strict COVID-19 protocols had been in place at the marina, which operates by window service and curbside only, she was not taking any chances.

“There’s not many people up here at this time of year, but there were still contractors here working on people’s cottages, they come by every day for a coffee, or gas or whatever, we had to let them know right away because to me they were exposed, because they had been here,” she said.

On Christmas Eve, she began feeling symptoms – having to sit down after feeling dizzy. Each of her four family members – and the two family members that visited – have experienced the illness differently – some have had painful headaches, dizziness and massive fatigue, one lost their sense of taste and smell and had a sore throat, another had flu symptoms like diarrhea and vomiting.

“I had a little bit of the sniffles, but very minor sniffles, it was more headaches and body aches, and a lot of fatigue,” she said. “Like sleeping 14, 16 hours a day, it was very exhausting. So, overall I would say our symptoms were mild, none of us needed or felt the need that we had to go to a hospital, so I’m grateful for that.”

Richards said she called the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit on Dec. 28, following the holidays, and received a call back on Dec. 29 when they reopened.

“And at that time our symptoms were more strong than they are now,” she said. “So they suggested not coming in to be tested because they didn’t want us driving with our symptoms, which was probably a good idea.”

When she called again, on Jan. 4, to better understand when her family might be able to stop isolating, she said the health unit “had kind of a little bit of a different opinion, in that, no, we probably should have come in and got tested because now they’re behind in a proper analysis of us.”

Richards said they planned to go for testing on Jan. 5, but said she felt the messaging had been conflicted.

“Until we actually do test positive, they don’t know how to tell us or direct us to proceed,” she said. “We’re all confident we will test positive because [the visitors] have tested positive and we have the symptoms. That’s a pretty sure thing. ... Once they get that confirmed, they’ll contact us with what they want to do from that point forward.”

Richards said her family members – in two different cities – have been confused about best practices following symptoms as well. While Richards looked up the guidelines on the Ontario.ca website which recommends not returning to work until 72 hours after symptoms have gone away, one health unit told her family member to quarantine from the day of a positive test, not the date of exposure.

“So that’s a little bit different there, too,” she said. “So is it two weeks from the ... what if you have no symptoms, is it still two weeks? So this is now where we’re confused. We are starting to feel better now, we do still have some symptoms so I wouldn’t say we’re good to go, but if we get tested tomorrow and say we get it back Friday so we’re positive Friday, then do we have to wait another two weeks? So I don’t know how this is going to turn out.”

“I think that’s just the reality, that it’s confusing for everybody,” said Richards. “We definitely don’t want to be the people who expose anybody else. As far as I’m concerned, we’ll just stay on the side of caution and keep closed until someone can give us a more definitive answer.”

Richards said it was important to her to be counted in the local confirmed case counts, which she checks regularly, though she is not currently out in the community. She also thought it was important to take the symptoms seriously and not treat them as a flu or cold to help avoid exposure to others.

“We’re shutting this down,” she said. “I don’t think people do take it seriously enough when they have symptoms. They think it’s a cold or they think it’s the flu ... and that’s how it goes.”

Richards came here from Hamilton to take over the marina in August, with a role – managing the store and marina, working in mechanics, doing the bookkeeping – for each member in the family.

“We were looking for property to get out of the city and we noticed that the marina was here for sale again, and it was the right time for us to do it, so we did it,” she said.

Her grandfather had purchased a cottage on Little Hawk Lake in 1963.

“So we’ve been here for a long time,” she said.

Though there have been some challenges for the new business owners, which Richards said she thinks is normal in the first year for any new business, she notes they’ve pulled through, and learned a few lessons for next year. They’ve also ensured they’ve followed

COVID-19 protocols at the business, keeping the store closed to the public except for window service and curbside pickup despite the reduction of sales that can cause, sanitizing any rental equipment on site including life jackets and helmets, and keeping the gas service full-serve, to limit the number of people handling the pump.

Business, she thinks, is growing more because of the pandemic, with people wanting to be out of the city, at their cottages, using boats, snowmobiles or ATVs.

“We have really good practices in place to avoid the public and us interacting, but with us having COVID that turns things into a bit of a different situation so we had to close,” she said. Though some customers have asked for contactless service with extra sanitation despite the closure and the symptoms Richards and her family are experiencing, she said she’s not willing to take that risk.

“It is an extremely contagious thing,” she said. “That’s probably the number one thing I have to say. It will infect everybody who comes into contact with it. There’s nobody immune to it. It may not be a death sentence, and I hope for most people it’s not. It’s not for us. But there are people that it is.”

Richards said her husband’s mother, who he had only been able to see during the pandemic through window visits, died of COVID-19 at the beginning of December, only three days after the long-term care facility she was at told the family she had contracted the virus through an outbreak at the residence.

“So some people really, really are at risk,” said Richards. “Even though for us it was mild, and we’re younger, and we could handle it, there’s people that can’t ... and you don’t know who you’re going to be around and lead it to. So I think it’s important that if you happen to be the one who gets it, like us, that you stop it where it is and you don’t go out, and you close down your business and you just deal with it.”

With guidance from the health unit and following public health recommendations, Richards said her family hopes to reopen the marina as soon as possible, knowing it is relied on by snowmobilers in need of gas and supplies.

“We’ll be open as soon as we can be,” she said.

The HKPRD health unit did not respond to questions by press time. For more information visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca> or <http://www.haliburtoncares.ca>.

Shared-ride service being explored

from page 1

or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.”

“Since that November meeting, the company has revealed they’re launching into other markets and are not able to pursue opportunities with the County of Haliburton,” Virtanen told councillors. “So while there isn’t currently an active discussion with a shared-ride service provider, we do recommend investigating the development of a shared-ride service bylaw for 2021, which would enable future opportunities for county consideration

should they arise.”

Councillors seemed comfortable with the idea.

“I’m in favour of this, but isn’t this one of 100 things that will flow from the service delivery review?” said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, referencing a review for the county and its lower-tier governments that was recently completed by consulting firm StrategyCorp.

“It might be,” said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Daniels.

County chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said he’d contact the CAOs of the four lower-tier municipalities regarding the matter.

County council previously voted against proceeding with a booked-ride transportation pilot project.

New Cases Reported Today							
0	2	7					
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland					
Total Confirmed Cases to Date *							
33	276	274	583				
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU				
*Note: Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation and routine data cleaning.							
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County *							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	4	29	2	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	34	223	56	0	16	19	13
Northumberland	41	276	75	2	8	3	0

The local health unit reported no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County as of Jan. 5. Currently there are four cases that are not yet resolved, 29 cases resolved and two current high-risk contacts. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU web site

Resolving issues at Scotch Line landfill

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Minden Hills is making progress on resolving a number of long-standing issues at its main waste disposal facility, the Scotch Line landfill.

Back in 2017, the township was issued orders from what is now the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for violations of the environmental compliance approval (ECA) for the operation of the site. Those violations included a mountain of construction and demolition waste on the property, improper grading and leachate outbreaks.

During a December council meeting, councillors heard from township waste facilities manager Tara Stephen regarding work undertaken to bring the township into compliance. As for the large volume of construction and demolition waste, “We have successfully cleaned up those historical stockpiles,” Stephen said. A staff report indicated the material had gradually been removed from the property during 2019 and 2020. “Contracts are now in place to continue to manage material as it collects, in order to ensure that material does not accumulate in excess of approved quantities,” read the report, prepared by public works director Travis Wilson. “As contracts expire, the township will undergo a competitive procurement process to hire ser-



Minden Hills councillors hear about how the township is taking care of non-compliance issues at the Scotch Line landfill during a Dec. 17 online meeting. / Screenshot

vice providers to manage this material.”

As for the grading, the township rented a bulldozer to remove what Stephen referred to as “sheer cliffs of garbage.”

“There’s still a small amount of excavation work to do,” she told councillors.

As for the leachate, which is water that has passed through and percolated in waste, the solution may actually be simpler than once thought. “Over the course of the sum-

mer and fall of 2020, additional groundwater and surface water collection was completed, and a series of test pits were excavated to assess subsurface conditions,” Wilson’s report read. “The results of this work indicated that the source of the outbreak was actually surface water flowing through the landfill. This meant the township could focus on much simpler, more cost-effective solutions.”

“It has been identified that the primary

source of the leachate outbreaks is infiltration of surface water (rain and snowmelt) through the garbage,” the report continued. “In order to stop this, the water that lands on the site needs to be encouraged to roll off of the site, rather than flow through the site. Part of achieving this is to grade the site so that there is no flat or depressed areas on the site. This work was largely completed in the fall of 2020. This will be partly effective in redirecting surface water infiltration.”

Capping the area with a soil liner such as clay will also be required, as well as interim covering.

The cost for the associated work totals hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“This is a good news report even though the price tag on it looks like a bad news report,” Stephen said.

The report indicates about \$800,000 worth of work associated with dealing with the leachate outbreaks over the next decade or so. For 2021, \$265,000 is budgeted for regrading, covering and monitoring. For each of 2022, 2024, 2025 and 2026, \$35,000 per annum is budgeted for interim covering, and for 2023, \$165,000 is budgeted for regrading, final covering and monitoring. Beyond 2026, \$35,000 per year will continue to be required for monitoring, and the report showed \$85,000 to \$235,000 listed for the future as needed, for interim covering, monitoring and contingency.



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WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS

Please note that any balance outstanding on your water and sewer account at December 31st was transferred to your tax account.

If you pay your account by telephone or on-line banking, any payments received at the Township office in the new year will be up-loaded to your water/sewer account. It is your responsibility to make your payment to the appropriate account – utility or taxes.

Any payments made on your utility account after the balance is transferred to taxes, will result in a credit on your utility account until the next quarterly billing, and will only be transferred to taxes upon written request, subject to an administration fee of \$25.00.

Please ensure your on-line or telephone banking payments are made to the appropriate utility or tax account.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 705-286-1260, ext. 501 or by email at water-sewer@mindenhills.ca

(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 14 – Budget Standing Committee Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

2020 TAX INFORMATION

Council passed By-law #20-63 to suspend late charges on all 2020 tax installments until the first day following December 4, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a reminder that the 2020 property taxes were due on December 4th. Interest will be added effective January 1, 2021 to all tax amounts outstanding as of this date.

You may pay your taxes via telephone or on-line banking or pay at your financial institution. Please allow three (3) business days for payments to be received by our office.

Payments can also be made by cheque and mailed or put in our secured drop box at 7 Milne St. located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp. Absolutely NO cash is to be put in the drop box. Please make cheques payable to the Township of Minden Hills.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax department at (705) 286-1260 and press option “3”.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINDEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Heaters - fire safety advice

People have been killed or injured in their homes using gas and paraffin portable heaters. These accidents can be avoided. Accidents most frequently occur as a result of gas leaking when people are assembling appliances or changing cylinders or cartridges. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is butane or propane stored as a liquid under pressure. A small leak can produce a large volume of highly flammable gas. The gas is heavier than air so that it collects near the floor or ground and can be ignited at a considerable distance from the source of the leak. If escaping gas is ignited in a room or other space there may be a fire and an explosion.

Remember

Turn off portable heaters before going to bed.
Always follow the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions.
Keep the heater clean and well maintained.
Ventilate the room in which the heater is being used.
Make sure that a permanent safety guard is fitted.
If a heater is to be used in one place for a long time fix it securely to a floor or wall.

Whatever type of heater you use, **do not** move a heater while it is alight or switched on; stand or sit too close, your clothing may ignite; place a heater too close to furniture, bedding or curtains; air or dry clothes over a heater; place heaters where they are likely to be knocked over; leave a portable heater on if young children or animals are left unattended; use flammable adhesives, cleaning fluids or aerosol sprays near a heater;

In the event of a fire

Close the door to the room where the fire is burning.
Get your family and yourself to safety outside the building.
Call the Fire Department by dialling 911.

LPG and paraffin portable heaters are an expensive way to heat rooms. They are also a major cause of condensation so be sure the window is open a little. Remember that every gallon of paraffin burnt produces 10 pints of water.

Election ‘could come at any time,’ Schmale says

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While he doesn’t want to see another federal election any time soon, sitting Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale has once again ensured he will be the Conservative candidate on the ballot the next time one rolls around.

Schmale was formally acclaimed as the Conservative nominee on Dec. 12, 2020. Following the announcement, he caught up with the *Times* to discuss the possibility of an early election being called, reflect on a year decimated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and consider some of the issues that are likely to take centre stage in 2021.

Although most things pre-COVID-19 seem like a lifetime ago now, the 2019 federal election wrapped up only 14 months ago. The next one is slated to take place on, or before, Oct. 16, 2023. With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau having to settle for a minority government, Schmale believes an election “could come at any time.”

“I don’t think Canadians really want an election right now. Certainly, nobody I’ve spoken to is in a rush to get back to the polls, so I don’t think we’re in a hurry for it. But with that said, we are in the position of having a minority parliament, and an election could come at any time” Schmale said. “We want to make sure we’re ready for all possibilities.”

The focus for right now though, Schmale says, should be securing and bolstering the Canadian economy, and ensuring the COVID-19 vaccines the federal government has secured get out to the people that need it. With that in mind, Schmale believes “the required amount of parties can find enough common ground” to spare voters from another early election.

With a new leader at the helm in Erin O’Toole, who serves as MP in neighbouring Durham, Schmale believes the local riding is in an advantageous position of having a potential prime minister privy to all the issues and intricacies that exist in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock.

“Erin knows our riding, and I think that can only be a benefit for us. He borders our riding and knows all about the rural aspect and urban aspect of communities like ours. He is a capable leader who ticks a lot of boxes and brings a lot of common sense to the table,” Schmale said. “He’s come up with the slogan that he wants us to be ‘aggressively reasonable’ as a Conservative caucus. He wants to make sure we’re doing our jobs properly and appropriately, and that we’re not simply opposing things for the sake of it. If we’re going to oppose something, he wants us to say why we oppose it, and then put forward a plan as to what we would do differently, which I think is responsible for any opposition member.”

A prime example for that, Schmale notes, would be the rollout of the federal government’s many COVID-19 relief programs in the early stages of the pandemic. While he was impressed by some aspects, notably the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), Schmale was dismayed by the



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale has been acclaimed as the Conservative candidate for the riding, whenever the next election takes place. /Photo submitted

way the emergency rent and wage subsidies were handled.

When the first iteration of the rent program was released, only around 10 per cent of Canadian businesses qualified, Schmale says. Similarly, when the wage subsidy was announced, it was to cover only 10 per cent of an employee’s wage. Many Canadians, including Schmale, lobbied the federal government to make widespread changes to ensure the subsidies were more accessible and wide-reaching.

“The problem was, while this was all going on, parliament wasn’t in session. It was difficult advocating for my constituents because there was no avenue [to do so],” Schmale said. “Essentially, the government was making all these announcements, and there was no way to debate or discuss them, so we were forced to use back channels to do all of that, which wasn’t as effective as it could have been.”

Schmale is also concerned that the Liberals have yet to table a 2020 budget.

“We’ve been getting these fiscal updates, which generally put us a few hundred billion in the hole, but we still do not have a budget. This is the longest period in Canadian history that we haven’t had a budget – even during the wars, the great wars, we were able to table a budget,” Schmale said. “We’re over a trillion dollars in debt nationally, with that number growing every day.”

Looking locally, Schmale was pleased to see some movement on potential high-speed internet investments across

“

Certainly, nobody I’ve spoken to is in a rush to get back to the polls.

— JAMIE SCHMALE

”

Haliburton County – a particularly pressing matter now that more and more people are working from home.

While he admitted internet service, generally speaking, “isn’t very good” in many rural areas right now, he was hopeful that additional funding announced by the Ontario government in November would ensure some problem areas are taken care of sooner rather than later.

“People are frustrated, and I understand that. Having access to a reliable internet service is a necessity in today’s age. While I can’t give exact timelines, it is refreshing to hear that we’re going to see new towers going up and some cable being laid [in our area],” Schmale said. “Hopefully that will provide some relief to what is a major issue across our riding.”

While all Ontario residents, and businesses, are currently observing a second provincially-mandated lockdown in the wake of escalating COVID-19 cases, Schmale believes the gradual rollout of the coronavirus vaccine will lead to the eventual full-scale reopening of the economy. Although he acknowledges it may take some time.

“Some experts have said you need upwards of 70 per cent immunity in order to let things go back to the way they were, so it’ll take a while to hit that number,” Schmale said. “But we need to continue to manage this as best we can and allow for parts of the economy to reopen. Yes, we want people to stay safe, but there also has to be a conversation around how do we live with the virus safely, because the government can’t continue to provide bail outs indefinitely. It’s just not possible, because somebody, eventually, has to pay all of this back.”

He added, “We only have a couple more years of spending, if that, at this level. Then we’re back to where we were in the 1990s, where our debt to GDP ratio was upwards of 66 per cent and the government struggled to find anyone willing to purchase our debt. That was when you started to see prices and taxes being increased...”

“We really don’t want to get to the point where we start to see our currency start to devalue itself, and the cost of living skyrocket, so the next year or two are going to be pivotal as we try to get back on our feet,” Schmale concluded.

Two senior staffers depart AH

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking a new public works director and a new fire chief after the resignations of two of its senior staff members in December.

Public works director Adam Thorn, who’s worked for the township for a decade, is departing to take an operations manager position with the Township of Minden Hills. Thorn thanked council and staff, saying his new position would allow him to focus on the aspects of the job he’s most passionate about.

Fire chief Johnathan Wilker started with the township last February, replacing former chief Mike Cavanagh. Wilker started just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic struck

Ontario, and has been heading up the township’s emergency control group. Mayor Carol Moffatt noted that Wilker had essentially not seen a normal day of work in light of the pandemic. Wilker’s family have remained in Ottawa throughout the COVID-19 crisis, and he is returning to Ottawa to be with them.

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NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF DR. KRISTY GAMMON

Dr. Kristy Gammon and the Haliburton Family Medical Centre are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Muriel Charles to the team.

Dr. Gammon will be retired from her practice March 1, 2021 and Dr. Charles will be joining Dr. Gammon as a locum physician January 4, 2021 until she officially assumes the care of many of Dr. Gammon’s patients March 1. She cannot accommodate all, so some will be assigned to another provider at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre. If you are already a patient of one of our nurse practitioners, and were rostered under Dr. Gammon, you will remain under the care of the nurse practitioner, but will be rostered to another physician on our team.

Letters have been mailed out to Dr. Gammon’s patients outlining this practice change. Please feel free to call Kim Robinson at 705-457-1212, extension 368 with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Charles!

HCSA prepares trails for season

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is preparing for the 2021 season, hoping sledders take care, heed trail status reports, and for more snow accumulation to open more of its 370 total kilometres of trails.

Right now, the HCSA is dealing with downed trees, laden with snow hindering efforts to open trails in this area.

"We are deeply challenged with blown down trees across the trails. That's probably OK. Our two biggest challenges is getting the weatherman on our side. Two, clearing our trails," HCSA vice-president John Enright.

Late last week, Enright estimates 250 trees have been cleared from when a windstorm came through the area close to four weeks ago, a job made more difficult with the snow pulling trees and branches over trails. Despite this challenge, it's not set back preparations significantly. He added there haven't been any "big storms" to help with establishing a greater base for trails.

There are currently a few trails open in the Highlands designated limited availability such as the B103, otherwise known as the Haliburton County Rail Trail. This isn't far off the usual norms for a year though.

Most years, Enright said, the HCSA doesn't have much trail availability before the first week of January.

"We're not behind the eight ball. We're working as hard as we can. Our teams, plural, are out packing and clearing trees, pulling snows in the low spots, hoping it will freeze and when people ride through closed trails this sets us back," he said.

All of the HCSA personnel, including its five machine groomers, are working to open more trails.

One of which, the groomer for B103 (also Haliburton County Rail Trail) is being designated to have every hour it grooms to translate to \$1 donated to the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation.

This foundation helps provide financial assistance to those recently diagnosed with breast cancer across Canada.

From a Facebook post, Enright said, "it's our way of giving back to a great organization who help patients cope with this disease. We want to make a difference."

So far, without a significant storm this season, there is not enough snow accumulation to open more trails.

His message to sledders running closed trails is they risk not only harm to themselves travelling across open water or unfrozen swamps, but also how they can set back preparations.

COVID-19, too, has had an affect on snowmobiling.

Although the association has not been slowed down by the virus, they have been forced to take steps to reduce the transmission of the virus by having their workers wear masks, signing in and out, washing hands and social distancing while inside their storage garage.

Another area COVID-19 is showing itself is in recommendations for sledders.

Enright adds the situation remains fluid and referenced how a little more than week ago riders weren't allowed to ride to Muskoka, as trails to that area were categorized red and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit region was yellow related to the COVID-19 designations for restrictions. The province-wide lockdown, initiated on Dec. 26, changed things once again.

Enright referenced the recommendations by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to remind sledders to stay within their health unit region and embark on essential travel only.

"The best practice is ride within the health unit [region]," he said. "We understand that probably 70 per cent of our ridership is from outside the area, so ride socially appropriate and understand there will be very limited services on Ontario trails this winter."

The OFSC announced trails to Quebec, Manitoba and the United States are closed.

Enright acknowledges how the activity of snowmobiling itself isn't a cause for concern related to viral transmission.

"It's what happens after snowmobiling. People congregate in groups, so practice social distancing and do all things you

“

We're not behind the eight ball.
We're working as hard as we can.

— JOHN ENRIGHT

”

read in the Echo every week," he said.

Enright reminds sledders to learn and heed the trail status designations.

"It's so important that people check for trail availability before setting out and the best way to do that is to go online and look and don't ride on unavailable, closed trails, because they're not safe," he said.

Red means unavailable and that access is prohibited, meaning those entering the property are trespassing. Yellow means limited availability and users understand trails are limited and should be used with "extreme care" and to reduce speed while on them. Green means available, but will vary in terms of quality and terrain. See website (ofsc.evttrails.com/#) for up to date statuses.

Knowledge is power and helps everyone related to the activity.

"It's about education. We can't be running to the OPP for everything. They have enough to do," he said. "They are our enforcement and safety partner, but we need people to cooperate. Check for trail availability, ride accordingly, take it easy and enjoy Haliburton."

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Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Times**DAVID ZILSTRA**,
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com**CHAD INGRAM**, Editor,
chad@haliburtonpress.com**JENNIFER MCEATHRON**, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com**DEBBIE COMER**, Circulation,
debbie@haliburtonpress.com**DARREN LUM**, Reporter,
darren@haliburtonpress.com**SUE TIFFIN**, Reporter,
sue@haliburtonpress.com**MIKE BAKER**, Reporter,
mike@haliburtonpress.com**KAREN LONDON**,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com**LAURA CHOWZUN**,
Production**STACEY POTLIVO**,
Production**LAURA SMITH**, Sales,
laura@haliburtonpress.com**PAUL BANELOPOULOS**, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com**PAT LEWIS**, Inside Sales
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
Published by White Pine Media CorpFunded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - noon
Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.
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The year that was

NORMALLY, WITH the dawn of a new year, I publish a column recounting the top 10 *Times* stories of the previous year.

I'm not going to do that this year, and the reason I'm not going to do that is because each of those stories would essentially be an offshoot of the biggest story of 2020, here or anywhere else on the planet, that of course being the COVID-19 pandemic.

Combing through last year's issues to compile the Year in Review section for this week's edition, it was interesting, albeit a bit surreal, to watch mention of the virus creep in. The first was during a Haliburton Highlands Health Service meeting last January. Then, in February, both HHHS and the school board began making preparations.

Then, in March, wham! Declarations of emergency, the halting of business, the closure of municipal facilities, the cancellation of events of every sort. I remember the sense of dread I woke up with every morning through the second half of March, and through April and May, knowing that all I was going to do all day was read about, talk to people about, and write about the impact of the pandemic. All COVID-19. All the time. By late spring there

were at least once again other things to write about, but the virus and its myriad impacts would continue to permeate our lives, and the pages of the paper, for the remainder of the year.

Here we are in 2021 and of course, things are no different than they were on Dec. 31. As I write this, Ontario remains in its second economic lockdown and numbers of new, confirmed

daily cases of the virus in the province continue to hover around 3,000. While certainly there was a collective sigh of relief worldwide as we escorted 2020 out of our lives, no magical switch was flipped on New

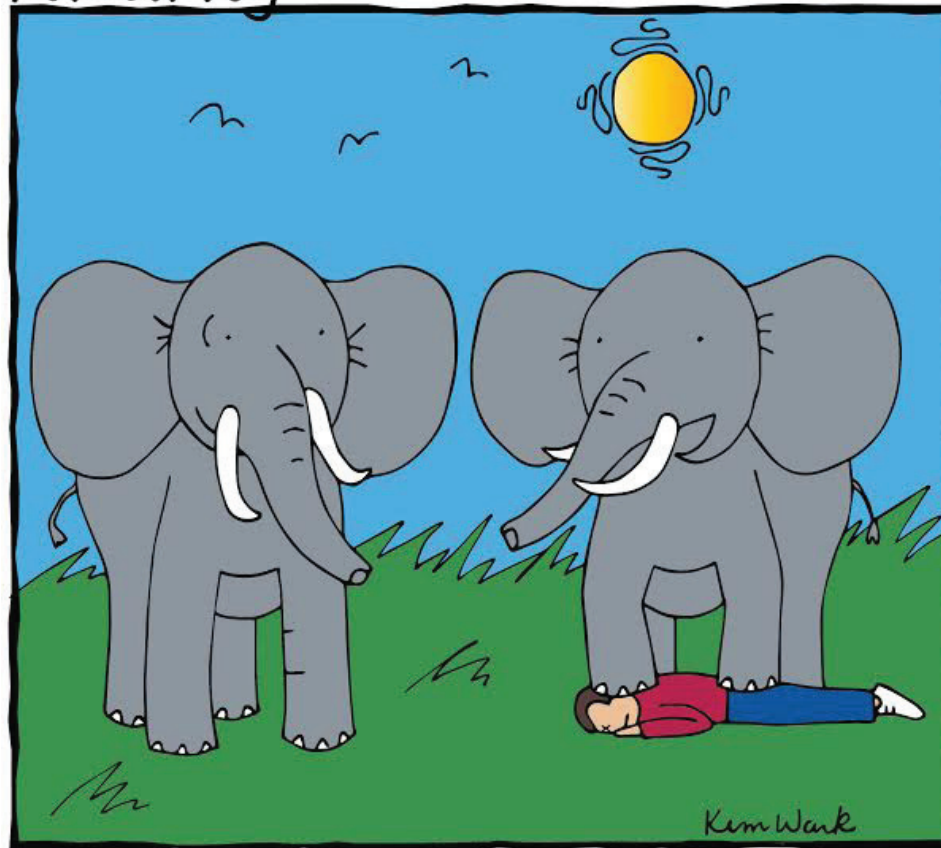
Year's Eve. If we are honest with ourselves, we realize that we have many more months of living the way we've been living for nearly the past 10 months ahead of us.

What the new year did bring though, was a symbolic victory of sorts. While 2020 is likely to be cemented in our minds as the year the pandemic struck, hopefully, as doses are delivered around the world, 2021 will be the year that many of us remember as the year we got the vaccine.

What 2021 brings with it is the prospect of hope, and that is good enough for now. Here's to a brighter year ahead.

**CHAD INGRAM**
Editor

Kwarky



"So I can go carnivore or munch grass all day?"

2020 and the outdoorsman

PEOPLE, IT seems, have many different takes on how good or bad the year 2020 was. But whether you think the glass is half full or half empty, I am reasonably certain we can all agree that, somewhere around last March, someone knocked the glass off the table. And, if you don't agree with that, you're probably drinking from a sippy cup.

The good news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The bad news is no one is certain it is not from an oncoming freight train.

Having said that, I'd like to think that 2020 was not all bad. Perhaps it might have even taught the average outdoorsman a valuable lesson or two.

One of the first things I learned was that it is not a bad thing to always be six feet away from the guys you hunt and fish with. In fact, after a lunch of beans and wieners or a few burritos, it's actually a very good thing, especially if you position yourself on the upwind side.

Social distancing was also fantastic for marksmanship, if only because no one was around to witness all of our misses.

After we learned we could get masks in an assortment of camouflage patterns, they were not nearly as off-putting either. Because of those masks, there was far less duck and goose calling, which mostly meant there were far more ducks and geese entering into our decoy spreads.

Those masks also served another far more important purpose. When we met another hunter on the street and they asked how our season had gone, they couldn't

tell how much we were blushing when we embellished a bit. Moreover, we could keep our camouflage paint on at least part of our face for most of the season. Due to this alone, masks might become a permanent part of my attire.

On the plus side again; because of social distancing, no one crowded you at your favourite fishing hole. All you had to do was fake a cough if someone tried it.

Social distancing also gave anglers an excuse to buy bigger boats just so we could ensure safety when we took our fishing buddies along.

I predict that if COVID lasts another year, the 24-foot canoe will be the next big trend and the average ice fishing hut will probably be the size of a small bungalow. Both of these things are not so bad if you think about it.

The year that has just passed also made us appreciate the guys we hunt and fish with a little more. Frankly, there were times when we missed them a whole lot – such as when we downed a heavy buck a half a mile from the road, dropped a moose in a swamp, or shot an honest triple of waterfowl.

The hope, of course, is that by this time next year all these things will be a distant memory and we will return to normal – whatever that is. When that time comes, I will definitely welcome the company afield once again.

But, between you and me, I also wouldn't mind if we took some of these lessons ahead with us, because frankly, I believe they will keep us feeling a whole lot healthier. After all, the guys at our hunt camp really love burritos.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

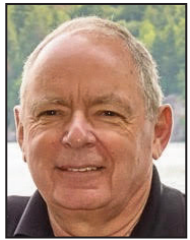
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Bright days and deep lessons

THIS FIRST full week of the New Year is the most important week of the year.

It is the third week following the winter solstice, a celestial phenomenon during which we turn from the deepening darkness behind us, and look to broadening daylight ahead. We see brighter, more hopeful, times coming toward us.

The solstice occurs Dec. 21, and results in the shortest daylight hours and the longest hours of darkness. After that, the daylight hours get longer. We already have gained almost 15 minutes of daylight since the solstice, and each day now brings approximately one more minute of daylight.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

The days following the winter solstice are a time of brightening and new beginnings, accented by the start of a new calendar year.

Some ancient cultures saw the winter solstice as a time for celebrating the cycles of life – death, rebirth, gestation and regeneration. It was a time of renewal and new opportunities.

Certainly, as the days lengthen and brighten, it is time to bury 2020 and its dark events. We can't forget them; they are history. Important history that provides us with valuable lessons.

There are numerous lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which will be detailed as our societies investigate what went wrong, what was done right, and what we can do to alleviate, and maybe even prevent, future outbreaks.

Two lessons strike me immediately. One, which should have been obvious, is there is no place for politics in health emergencies.

Mixing politics with health decisions created chaos and unnecessary suffering and deaths in the United States and Britain. In Canada, the consequences have been less severe, but confusion has been rampant.

Politics in general are seriously ill. They have been infected by hardcore right- and left-wing fanaticism that brushes aside bipartisanship, a key to solving a society's problems.

The cure for this political sickness rests with the voters. We must become more thoughtful and begin promoting and electing more independent-minded people to help direct our affairs.

Independent thinkers are critical to our future. People who listen carefully to all sides, evaluate what they hear and make decisions independent of what the political party hacks demand.

The second lesson from the year 2020 is that we need to think differently about pandemic level disease and how it occurs.

Pandemics no longer are once-every-one-hundred-years events. We will suffer more of them until we begin changing how we treat our planet. (This one was predicted two years before it arrived, but few paid any attention).

The majority of infectious diseases that have attacked us in recent decades have been zoonotic, meaning they came from animals. They spilled over from non-human animals into humans. Bird "flu," swine "flu," SARS, West Nile virus, Zika and Ebola are examples.

The American Centre for Disease Control and Prevention says that three out of four new or emerging infectious diseases come from non-human animals. It also says that zoonotic diseases are responsible for an estimated 2.5 billion cases of illness and 2.7 million deaths worldwide each year.

Much of the blame for these spillover diseases from animals to humans has been placed on the wildlife trade. But trade in such critters as bats and civet cats as exotic food bought in "wet" markets is only one factor.

Destroying wild lands – like cutting down forests – forces wild animals and their diseases out of their natural habitats and closer to humans. A mix of wild animals in places that they have never been (and never should be) increases the potential for bringing zoonotic diseases to humans.

Mixing livestock and wild animals on farms, overuse of antibiotics on livestock, agricultural land-use and other agriculture practices also are factors.

These many factors all roll into a single cause – the upsetting of nature's balance. Everything and everyone on this planet is part of nature and intricately connected to it. When humans start messing with the connections, bad things happen.

Wild, dangerous weather and pandemics are two bad things we are experiencing now. There will be more if we do not change our ways.

The New Year and its brightening post-solstice days are a good time to start thinking about the lessons of the pandemic.

Call a friend!

WELCOME TO 2021. It's a new year. For many there's a feeling of starting anew. Making commitments, setting goals. I always find it exciting to set out a plan for a change I want to make. Then as the time ticks away so does the motivation that was there when the brilliant idea first presented itself as a light bulb over my head. Before we were hit with the restrictions of COVID-19 we had interactions that helped to fuel the motivation fire but the lack of these interactions makes it more difficult to attain goals – fitness or otherwise.

We know all about what we can't do right now. We can't go to fitness classes at a gym. We're left to grunt and groan on our own during an online class. We're not missed in the same way when we don't show up to the class. There's no one to notice when we drop a pound or two. The tiny inspiring moments are lost and with it goes the want to stick with the plan. The hole gets deeper unless we decide to not let it happen. We have to adapt.

Thankfully we are living at a time when communication at a distance is readily accessible and we're going to use that to our advantage. Pick someone in your life who is wanting to make a change in their life. It doesn't have to be the same goal as you

have. It just has to be someone who can support you and who you can support. Here are some ideas on how you can make this work:

- Write down your goal and your plan, including timelines. Once you're comfortable with it send it to your friend and have them send you their goal and plan.

- Set up a time to review each other's goal and plan. Be sure you both have clear start and end dates.

- Set up a regular time to meet. Protect that time as if your life depends on it.

- Set an agenda for each meeting. Treat it as a business meeting. Talk about successes and failures. Review possible changes that set you each

up for success. Most importantly – don't judge. Don't judge your friend or yourself.

Just because we are separated from one another doesn't mean we have to be apart. It's human nature to help each other out. Let's focus on that goodness. This is the perfect time for that.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness



HCSA embarks on fundraiser

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is launching a fundraiser for the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation supporting those battling breast cancer. The HCSA has dedicated one of its five trail groomers committing \$1 per hour grooming time for the 2021 season on its busiest trail, TOP B103, the rail trail. Association Vice President John Enright says, "it's our way of giving back to a great organization who help patients cope with this disease. We want to make a difference." He says, the trail groomer won't be hard to miss, it's trimmed out with a pink tool box on a high visibility trail, lots will see it." /Submitted the HCSA

Jr. Book of the Month



Actress, producer, and parent Kristen Bell (*Frozen*, *The Good Place*) and creative director and parent Benjamin Hart have a new challenge for you and your kids: become a purple person!

What is a purple person? Great question. I mean, really great! Because purple people always ask really great questions. They bring their family, friends, and communities together, and they speak up for what's right. They are kind and hardworking, and they love to laugh (especially at Grandpa's funny noises)! A purple person is an everyday superhero! How do you become one? That's the fun part! Penny Purple will lead you through the

steps. Get ready to be silly, exercise your curiosity, use your voice, and be inspired. These brilliant authors have created a hilarious read-aloud that offers an unforgettable message about embracing the things that bring us together as humans. This book will inspire a whole generation to paint the world purple! Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.

2020 Year in Review

January

Teachers' strikes

After more than a year of working without a new contract, teachers' unions begin rotating, one-day strikes that included picket lines outside of Haliburton County schools, including Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Issues for the elementary teachers' union included protecting the province's kindergarten program, teacher compensation, smaller class sizes and resources for students with special needs.

Kudos for Cavanagh

Algonquin Highlands council paid tribute to departing fire chief Mike Cavanagh, who headed up the township's fire department for five-and-a-half years. Cavanagh left the township to take a position as deputy chief of Peterborough's fire department, and was succeeded by chief Jonathan Wilker.

Education director announces retirement

Larry Hope, who'd been superintendent of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board for a decade, announced that he would retire in the summer. "I've had amazing support from trustees," Hope told the *Times*. We have a group of trustees who care incredibly about kids, far more than politics, and that makes an incredible difference."

Green burials

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society begin making delegations to municipal councils, seeking areas dedicated to green burials, which do not include the use of embalming chemicals, steel, fibreglass or cement vaults, but rather use biodegradable shrouds, coffin-shaped baskets or unfinished wooden coffins. In Algonquin Highlands, an undeveloped section at the north end of St. Stephen's cemetery was identified for this purpose.

County hesitant on health unit bill

Due to changes in the provincial funding formula, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit sends a letter to Haliburton County council saying its annual requisition will increase by 10 per cent, or approximately \$42,000. Councillors take issue with the correspondence, saying it amounts to downloading by the province, and agree they will refuse to pay the extra money, while advocating against the change.

HHHS board discusses coronavirus

Members of the board for Haliburton Highlands Health



ETFO members wave to a driver, acknowledging a driver's honk of support, as they walked up and down the sidewalk on Bobcaygeon Road in Minden, steps from Archie Stouffer Elementary School, as part of the one-day strike at Trillium Lakelands District School Board schools on Tuesday, Jan. 21. /DARREN LUM Staff

Services discuss the novel coronavirus (during a January 30 meeting), which had just been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization. At press time, there had been 259 deaths from the virus recorded in China, where it was believed to have originated, and three confirmed cases recorded in Ontario.

Coleman resigns

Minden Hills community services director Mark Coleman resigns from the township to take a similar position with the Municipality of Brockton.

number of years in Alberta. He replaced interim chief Mike Bekking, who'd been filling the role since long-time chief Doug Schell resigned in the fall of 2017.

Neglected dogs

Police are called to a residence in Minden Hills to investigate allegations of animal cruelty, including ill treatment and poor living conditions for 14 hunting dogs.

AH legal bills

The Township of Algonquin Highlands paid approximately \$35,000 in legal bills defending itself in a breach of contract lawsuit from Ajax-based company Reaction Distributing Inc., stemming from the company's bid on the supply of compactors at the Dorset transfer station. The company argued its bid was wrongfully disqualified, ultimately winning the case, in which the township paid more than \$70,000 in damages.

Climate change mitigation targets

The county's municipalities begin setting greenhouse gas reduction targets under the county's climate change mitigation and adaptation plan. The first phase of the plan focuses on emissions created by the operations of the municipal governments themselves, while a later phase will address reducing emissions in the community at large.

State of the art heart equipment

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation unveils new cardiac telemetry and cardiograph equipment at the emergency rooms in Haliburton and Minden. The foundation raised \$525,000 for the purchase of the equipment.

February

Borrowing for roads

Minden Hills councillors agree to borrow up to nearly \$2 million for the completion of roads and bridges projects in 2020, including for the rehabilitation of the Sunnybrook bridge in downtown Minden; drainage work along Shetland Road; work on the Milburn Road and Sedgwick Road bridges; repaving along Bobcaygeon Road; and the reconstruction of IGA Road.

New fire chief in MH

Nelson Johnson was hired as the new chief of the Minden Hills fire department, after most recently serving as deputy chief of the department in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Johnson had previously worked in different areas of the country, including a

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Concern over shoreline bylaw

Haliburton County residents, many from the construction and landscaping industries, pack county council chambers to express concern about a draft shoreline protection bylaw that would prohibit site alteration and removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark along county water bodies. Many say the bylaw, aimed at protecting lake health, is too strict and will negatively impact the local economy.

Red Hawks provincial champions

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawk boys curling team become provincial champions, with a dramatic finish in an extra end final shot by skip Jacob Dobson.

Insurance won't cover log chute damage

Algonquin Highlands council learns the township's insurance company will pay \$215,000 in damages for the Hawk Lake log chute, badly damaged by flooding in 2017, but will no longer insure the structure. Mayor Carol Moffatt tells council the chute would cost \$500,000 to rebuild as it is.

March

Service delivery review

Haliburton County awards a \$150,000-contract to Toronto-based consulting firm StrategyCorp for a service delivery review of the county and its four, lower-tier municipalities.

County promises wide public consultation

In a standing-room-only county council chamber, councillors hear delegations from the Coalition of Haliburton County Property Owners' Associations and the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association regarding the county's controversial draft shoreline protection bylaw. Councillors agree they will conduct widespread public consultation throughout the summer, likely involving a series of town hall meetings.

Flood strategy

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Laurie Scott and Minister of Natural Resources John Yakabuski joined Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin for a press conference beside the Gull River to unveil the provincial government's new flooding strategy, entitled Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flood Strategy.

Health agencies, schools prepare for COVID-19

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre releases messaging asking anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 to avoid attending the clinic, and for anyone who had travelled internationally in the past two weeks before symptoms set in to alert clinic staff. A spokesperson for the Trillium Lakelands District School Board says that surfaces within schools are being regularly disinfected, and that shipments of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are being delivered to schools.



Ontario Infrastructure Minister and HKLB MPP Laurie Scott, flanked by Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, left, and MNR Minister John Yakabuski, speaks to the provincial announcement of a new document, Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy, at the Minden Riverwalk on the morning of March 9. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Gatherings cancelled to prevent virus spread

An onslaught of closures and cancellations across the county are announced to help contain the spread of the coronavirus, including most community programming by a host of organizations, the suspension of services and receptions at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home and the cancellation of the Haliburton County Fair, which had been scheduled for June.

Townships close facilities, cancel meetings

Between March 13 and March 17, the Township of Minden Hills and the County of Haliburton close their public facilities, cancel activities and programming, and suspend committee and council meetings amid the COVID-19 outbreak. A number of municipal staff members are instructed to begin working from home.

States of emergency declared

Following a declaration of emergency in Ontario by Premier Doug Ford on March 17 due to the COVID-19 outbreak, municipal governments in the county declare local states of emergency. "The notion that it's not happening in our community is a fallacy," Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin tells the *Times*. The provincial government instructs that many types of businesses must shut down temporarily, and restaurants across the province are mandated to serve take-out only. Schools plan to stay closed for an additional two weeks after March break.

Health unit reports first COVID-19 death

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reports the first COVID-19-related death in the region, a man in his 80s who died in Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital on March 22. By March 24, there were 12 confirmed cases of the virus within the HKPR district.

Minden business under fire

Bobcaygeon Road business Yummy Mummy Apothecary & Emporium comes under widespread public criticism after owner Amandha Vollmer posts the following to social media: "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic hoax we are cancelling nothing. You can come here with a fever and cough all you want. We know that germs don't cause disease. You are welcome to visit us for March break while fools cancel everything according to government propaganda."

Feds, province pass emergency legislation

The federal and provincial legislatures hold emergency meetings passing legislation to help Canadians amid the COVID-19 crisis, including an \$82 billion aid package from the feds that included \$27 billion in direct funding for Canadians as people began to lose their jobs amid government-imposed economic shutdowns.

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April

Province extends school closure

The Ford government announces that students will remain out of school until at least May 4 amid the COVID-19 crisis, with the province releasing expectations for students' at-home learning.

County assessment centre opens

A COVID-19 assessment centre outside the Haliburton Family Medical Centre on County Road 1 began accepting patients on March 31. Access to the centre was limited to those displaying symptoms or who'd had potential exposure to the virus. Results were available within 72 hours.

Demand at food banks spikes

With county residents being laid off work amid the pandemic, local food banks report an increase in demand, that increase as much as 20 per cent or more in some cases.

Seasonal residents asked to reconsider coming to county

Following a request by the provincial government along the same lines, a number of physicians with the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team issued a letter to seasonal residents via social media, asking them to consider the county's limited medical resources before making the decision to visit their seasonal homes. That message was also promoted by a number of municipal politicians, causing somewhat of a backlash in comments on social media and in letters to the editor.

Six confirmed cases in county

As of April 14, there had been six cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Haliburton County residents, with Dr. Norm Bottum directing anyone with symptoms to do an online assessment and if directed, contact the assessment centre for a nasal swab test.

Lake associations make big donation

In a challenge from the Coalition of Haliburton County Property Owners' Associations, local lake associations donate more than \$25,000 to local food banks, as well as SIRCH Community Services, to help struggling residents amid the ongoing crisis.

AH declares emergency, closes boat launches

"Algonquin Highlands had not previously declared an emergency because the provincial state of emergency provided municipalities with the same powers as if they had declared them themselves, therefore it was not necessary," Mayor Carol Moffatt explained. However, the province recently allowed municipalities that had declared emergencies



Andrew Graham and Shannon Blanchard of Graham's Farm Market examine their beefsteak tomatoes planted on Jan. 24 inside their greenhouse where it is located just off Bobcaygeon Road in Minden. They were expecting to harvest the tomatoes June 1. The farm also sells a variety of seasonal produce such as spinach, lettuce, cherry tomatoes, and other items such as free-range eggs. /DARREN LUM Staff

to begin circulating staff through different departments to account for staffing shortages. The township closed public boat launches to all but necessary travel.

COVID-19 costs begin to add up

As of April 15, the COVID-19 pandemic had cost the County of Haliburton \$42,500, in form of wages and benefits for overtime hours, medical equipment purchases and IT expenses.

HHHS increases LTC precautions

Haliburton Highlands Health Services seals off its long-term care units from adjoining hospital facilities using temporary walls and separate entrances in an effort to protect residents and staff from contracting the virus.

Zoom meetings begin

The provincial government passes special legislation allowing municipal councils to hold meetings electronically, something normally prohibited under the Municipal Act. In an April 30 meeting held using online conferencing app Zoom and broadcast to the public via YouTube, Minden Hills councillors decided to proceed with a number of capital proj-

ects that had been budgeted for in 2020, including a number of roads and bridge projects. Council also reclaimed its authority, which had been delegated to the township's emergency management group with the onset of the crisis.

Unions strike deal with province

The elementary and secondary teachers' unions ratify new collective agreements with the provincial government.

May

Changes in palliative care

Following advice from the province, Haliburton Highlands Health Services limits admission to its long-term care facilities, including its palliative care suites, to essential visitors only amid the ongoing pandemic. All residents and staff at HHHS's long-term care facilities begin undergoing mandatory testing for COVID-19.

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Vandalism to Minden businesses

Someone plasters posters onto the windows of businesses in Minden's downtown using a strong, brown adhesive. The posters proclaimed the COVID-19 pandemic to be a hoax, with messages such as, "Thinking a mask is going to stop corona is like thinking your undies will stop a fart." Police obtains security footage from the downtown core, but say the footage is not clear enough to identify suspects.

No money left over on arena

Minden Hills councillors hear from Ottawa's McDonald Brothers Construction that there will be no contingency funds left over on the township's \$12.75-million arena project. Under the project's "profit pool," any savings found through subcontracts were to be split between the company and the township, with the township's share going toward "value-added items" not included in the project's base budget. These items included office and lobby furniture and paving the balance of the parking lot, among others, and totalled more than \$440,000, with some \$130,000 covered by a grant.

MH accrues \$900K surplus for 2019

The Township of Minden Hills accrued a surplus of more than \$900,000 for 2019, a treasury report shows, with some \$500,000 of that coming from unfilled staffing positions and associated benefits.

Schools remain closed until fall

The Ford government announces that Ontario public school students will remain out of school until September, leaving students to round out the 2019/2020 school year with at-home and e-learning options.

Some businesses reopen

On May 14, the provincial government released a list of types of businesses that were permitted to reopen after the initial economic lockdown. The list includes medical services, counsellors, golf courses, marinas, veterinarians, house-keeping businesses, pet groomers and trainers, and some retail and construction businesses. The government also reopens provincial parks for day use.

Arena construction resumes

After being paused for a month due to restrictions from the province, construction on the Minden Hills arena project resumes. The initial timeline for the project had it scheduled to open in late summer, before the start of the 2020/21 ice season.

Cottagers asked to scale back activities

Premier Doug Ford asks seasonal residents returning to cottage country for the long Victoria Day weekend to enjoy it in a low-key fashion with no gatherings, outdoor fires or fireworks. He released the statement following a conference call with municipal leaders from the province's cottaging communities.

Kinmount Fair cancelled

Organizers of the Kinmount Fair, one the largest country fairs in Ontario normally taking place on the Labour Day

weekend, will be cancelled for 2020. The event would have been the 150th fair.

June

Farmers' market returns

The Haliburton County Farmers' Market announces that its summer farmers' markets in Minden, Haliburton Village and Stanhope will return with COVID-19 protocols and social distancing requirements in place.

Water trails reopen

Algonquin Highlands reopens its Haliburton Highlands Water Trails on June 16, and despite being closed for months, revenues from campsite booking will go to outpace revenues from 2019, as more people look to vacation close to home amid the pandemic.

New CAO in MH

Minden Hills township announces that a new chief administrative officer, Trisha McKibbin, will start working for the township in July. McKibbin would be coming to Minden Hills from the Town of St. Marys, where she was director of corporate services for 12 years. McKibbin was the successor to Lorrie Blanchard, who served as CAO/treasurer for six years and became the township's director of finance.

Protest at 50s Diner

Stirring controversy, Minden 50s Diner owner Jason Lake announces he will open to for sit-down customers in spite of provincial restrictions. Restaurants were still to be serving

food only by take-out and delivery. "You can walk into pretty much any big box store here, locally . . . and walk around and do whatever you want," Lake told the *Times*, adding restaurants should be given the chance to implement social distancing procedures.

County cancels Hike Haliburton

Haliburton County council decides to cancel the county-run Hike Haliburton Festival, which features a series of guided hikes and normally takes place in late September. "Things like the ploughing match and the CNE have had to cancel," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, as councillors reluctantly made the decision to pull the plug on the event for 2020.

Resorts reopen

Resorts across the county are permitted to reopen with safety protocols and preventative measures in place. County councillors had expressed concern that while commercial resorts had to close down, private rentals were still taking place, creating an unfair playing field.

More businesses reopen

More types of businesses are permitted to reopen with Phase 2 of the provincial government's COVID-19 recovery framework. This includes indoor dining at bars and restaurants, as well as barbershops and hair salons, beauty parlours and tattoo shops.

Still Standing comes to Minden

Minden Hills councillors receive a request from producers of CBC series *Still Standing*, which explores small communities in Canada. Council happily grants the request to allow filming. While filming was initially scheduled for July, it ended up taking place during the fall. The episode featuring Minden is scheduled to air in late 2021.



Haliburton's Jamie Pyl turns in place, spinning while freestyle kayaking on Sunday, June 28 on the Gull River at the Minden Whitewater Preserve. Pyl, who has kayaked on the Gull River for 10 years, is a regular at the rapids. / DARREN LUM Staff

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Online graduations

Like the remainder of their school year, ceremonies for graduating students also took place in a virtual fashion, such as the ASES Stage Walk, a pre-recorded event that students and parents were able to tune into and enjoy.

Barkhouse takes prestigious award

Minden Hills-based artist Mary Ann Barkhouse is named 2020 Indigenous Arts Award laureate, an honour bestowed on her by the Ontario Arts Council.

July

Highlands Cinemas misses summer

For the first time in 40 years, Kinmount's Highlands Cinemas owner Keith Stata announces the popular movie theatre will remain closed for the summer due to the numerous operating challenges posed by the pandemic.

Face masks become mandatory

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit announces that face masks will become mandatory within businesses in Haliburton County effective July 7. An announcement from the health unit calls on businesses to have policies in place to prevent those not wearing face masks from entering their establishments.

Short-term rental regs

Algonquin Highlands councillors decide they will consider a bylaw to regulate the operation of private, short-term rentals of residences within the township, including potentially some kind of licensing system, and that the township will undertake a public feedback process on the matter.

Tourism minister visits

Ontario Minister of Tourism Lisa McLeod visits Haliburton County, taking in destinations such as the Minden Wild Water Preserve and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. The visit had been in relation to an expected \$350,000 funding announcement for the region, however that announcement was delayed.

More businesses reopen

Haliburton County, along with most other parts of the province, entered Stage 3 of the province's COVID-19 recovery framework on July 17, meaning that most types of businesses that had still been mandated closed amid the pandemic were permitted to reopen with safety protocols in place. Locations such as amusement parks, buffet-style food services, steam rooms, saunas and some others were deemed too high-risk to reopen.



Some of the public came showing their colours to support this year's rainbow flag raising to kick off the 5th annual Minden Pride Week in Minden on Monday, Aug. 24 at the Minden Hills Township building. / DARREN LUM Staff

Man shot by police following grocery store assault

On the morning of July 15, a 73-year-old man entered Easton's Valu-Mart in Minden, and was asked by an employee there to put on a face mask before entering the store. According to witnesses, the man began assaulting the employee before getting into his vehicle, ramming other vehicles and the store itself, then speeding away. OPP traced the man to a residence near Drag Lake, where guns were fired and the man subsequently pronounced dead at hospital. He was later identified as John Leslie Hegedus. The Ontario Special Investigations Unit is investigating the incident.

Missing man found dead

The body of a Scarborough man who'd been reported missing on July 23 was pulled from Minden Lake by OPP on July 26. The man was 55-year-old Robert Smith, although police would not confirm whether he was the same Robert Smith who previously served time for the possession and distribution of child pornography, and who was also an actor, known for his role as an outrageous Scotsman in Alexander Keith's commercials in the early 2000s.

August

Tornado tears up Kinmount

Uprooted trees, collapsed fencing and a garage reduced to a pile of its contents were left behind after a tornado hit Kinmount at about 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2. Despite some property damage, no one was injured in the storm.

Face mask policy

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Minden Hills

passes a policy stipulating that members of the public are to wear face masks inside township-owned facilities and that township employees are to wear face coverings when interacting with members of the public, whether indoors or off-site.

Minden Pride goes online

The fifth annual Minden Pride festival proceeds, with most events, including a dance party and trivia night, taking place in a virtual manner online. A drive-in movie showing takes place at Abbey Gardens' Little Pit Drive-In.

Making back-to-school decisions

While families who wish to have their children physically return to school with the new school year have that option, online and at-home learning also remains an option amid the ongoing pandemic, presenting difficult choices for local families.

MH reopens some facilities

The Township of Minden Hills reopens some of its buildings, including the administrative office on Milne Street and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, to the public for the first time since the pandemic began.

COVID-19 relief funding

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott visits Minden to announce \$2.8 in COVID-19 relief funding from the provincial government for the County of Haliburton and its four lower-tier municipalities. The county received \$1.435 million; Dysart et al \$475,000; Minden Hills \$402,200; Highlands East \$281,700; and Algonquin Highlands \$275,900.

Climate change plans

Councils for the county and its four municipalities begin accepting corporate climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, designed to lower the in-house greenhouse gas emis-

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sions they generate, with varying reduction targets set by the respective councils, to be achieved by 2030.

Highland Storm hockey to return

The executive for the Highland Storm minor hockey association decides to proceed with a hockey season, with COVID-19 safety protocols in place and modified rules to mitigate physical contact.

September

Survey on short-term rentals

Algonquin Highlands councillors decide the township will undertake a survey gauging public opinion on the creation of regulations around short-term rental accommodations.

Arena should be finished in weeks

Minden Hills councillors hear that the arena project, which had initially been scheduled to be completed in late summer, should be finished within a few weeks. Council also approves a new fundraising committee for the project, after a previous committee was disbanded earlier in the year, following criticism it contained too many members of township staff.

Dailloux pitches sale of airport

Algonquin Highlands Councillor Jennifer Dailloux suggested the township consider selling, or closing, the Stanhope

Airport, noting that it serves a small group of people and runs at a deficit of approximately \$100,000 per year. There was no uptake on the idea from other members of council.

Million-dollar surplus

A treasury report indicates the Township of Minden Hills will likely end 2020 with a surplus in excess of \$1 million. Delayed operations and equipment purchases due to the COVID-19 pandemic were part of the reason, as well as wages and benefits that had been budgeted for various, unfilled staffing positions.

Shoreline protection talks resume

After months on pause due to the COVID-19 crisis, Haliburton County councillors resume discussion on the county's controversial draft shoreline protection bylaw. Council agrees to the creation of an online public engagement process on the bylaw, in light of not being able to hold in-person public meetings amid the ongoing pandemic.

Snack bar for arena

While it wasn't in the project's original budget, Minden Hills councillors agree they want to see money allotted for a snack bar in the township's new arena. Council approves a number of "value-added items" for the project, including a projection screen and projector, lobby furniture, fitness room access panels and additional security cameras.

AH cancels Dorset Snowball

Algonquin Highlands councillors agree to cancel the 2021 Dorset Snowball, a popular event drawing thousands of people, amid the ongoing pandemic. 2021 would have marked the 31st year for the festival.

Affordable housing

The Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation visits Minden Hills council announcing a new project that will create 30 units in the form of 15 duplexes along the Gull River at the intersection of Highway 35 and County Road 21. Minden Hills council agrees to donate a township-owned road allowance on the property, proceed with official plan and zoning amendments, as well as waive a number of application and building fees.

Return to school

New Trillium Lakelands District School Board director Wesley Hahn said during a board meeting that he was proud of how staff and students had handled the return to school, acknowledging the challenges and differences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some students returned physically to their schools, while others opted for online learning.

October

Crisis calls up

The Canadian Mental Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge reports that crisis call volume has increased by 30 per cent since March. "We can say with a lot of certainty that since COVID hit that it's impacted Ontarians' mental health in a detrimental fashion for sure," Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education, said.

Bus driver shortage

A province-wide shortage of school bus drivers is felt in Haliburton County, with parents being asked to find other ways to get their children to school on days when a driver is not available for their route.



Archie Stouffer Elementary School's Mr. Paul Mardus and Grade 5/6 class wear orange. Like other Trillium Lakelands District School Board schools, ASES classes and students showed support for survivors and victims of the residential schools by wearing orange shirts for Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at the Minden school. /Submitted by Jane Austin

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Land registry office closes to walk-in traffic

Part of a provincial overhaul of the land registry system, the land registry office located on Newcastle Street in Minden closes to walk-in traffic. Most resources are available online, and appointments can be made for special requests.

COVID-19 heats up housing market

Veteran realtors in the county say they’ve never experienced a real estate market in Haliburton County like the one that was created in the wake of the pandemic, with people looking to get out of urban areas and relocate to more sparsely populated ones. Properties, both waterfront and non-waterfront, have been selling in record time and above asking price since early summer.

Councillors call proposed policy controversial

Haliburton County councillors express concerns with a proposed policy in an amendment to the county’s official plan that would lay out formal requirements for the conversion of seasonal cottages into year-round dwellings.

Post office employee tests positive for COVID-19

An employee of the Minden post office tested positive for COVID-19, Canada Post confirmed to the *Times*. A statement from Canada Post noted that staff members are mandated to practise physical distancing, and that facilities are disinfected regularly.

Winter hiking

While Haliburton County council cancelled the fall Hike Haliburton Festival, councillors enthusiastically supported moving ahead with Hike Haliburton: Winter Edition, a festival featuring guided snowshoe hikes and scheduled for February. Social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols were to be in place. The event was later cancelled.



Premier Doug Ford was in Minden on Nov. 4 to make a broadband funding announcement ahead of the release of the provincial budget. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

November

Ford visits Minden

Premier Doug Ford made a stop at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre to announce new funding for broadband internet expansion in rural and under-served areas ahead of the release of the provincial budget.

Frost Centre for sale

The Ontario government, through Crown corporation Infrastructure Ontario, lists the former Frost Centre property south of Dorset for sale with a commercial realty firm for \$1.1 million. The posted parcel includes 40 acres with some 20 buildings, many of which have been empty for more than a decade. The province closed the former MNR facility in 2004.

Watching for blue-green algae

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners’ Association asks waterfront residents to keep an eye out for blue-green algae blooms after a number of suspected blooms are spotted throughout the county. Blooms can be toxic and potentially deadly to people and pets. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks later confirms that a bloom on Bob Lake south of Minden was blue-green algae, but said the bloom quickly dissipated.

County pays health unit bill

Haliburton County councillors reluctantly agreed to pay an increased requisition from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, the increased bill amounted to “downloading by stealth” by the province, councillors say. The increase came following a change in the funding formula for health units by the Ford governments, and the county’s costs are expected to increase again next year and the year following

Arena not complete

While the new Minden Hills arena is “substantially complete,” in terms of technical, architectural milestones, it becomes apparent during a Minden Hills council meeting that the new facility is unlikely to become operational before the end of the year.

Arena fundraising resumes

A new fundraising committee for the Minden Hills arena project meets virtually, making it the first of the townships advisory committees to do so, with advisory committee meetings on hold since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council agrees that the fundraising committee will act as guinea pig for virtual committee meetings. Before the pandemic, the goal of the committee had been to raise \$750,000 toward the nearly \$13-million project.

New community services director

Minden Hills hires Craig Belfry as its new community services director some 10 months after former community services director Mark Coleman resigned from the township to take a similar position with the Municipality of Brockton.

AH orders removal of docks

Algonquin Highlands councillors decide the township will order the removal of docks placed by residents on some pieces of public property, in some cases for generations. The illegal docks in question were not those placed on township-owned road allowance adjacent to residences, something which council was planning to discuss at a later date.

HHHS prepares for second wave

Haliburton Highlands Health Services was preparing for the second wave of the novel coronavirus, HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer told members of the organization’s board. At that time, 19 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported within the county since the beginning of the pandemic.

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December

Devolin, Danielsens vie for warden

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Daniels announce they're both interested in serving as Haliburton County warden for 2021, leaving their county council colleagues to take part in a virtual vote on who will serve as the head of county council for the upcoming year.

Snowbirds grounded by virus

A number of county residents who normally gravitate to warmer climes south of Canada-United States border for parts of the winter say that amid concerns with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they will remain in the county for the winter.

Service delivery review

Haliburton County council receives a much-anticipated service delivery review for the county and its four lower-tier municipalities from Toronto-based consulting firm StrategyCorp. The 140-page documents recommends a host of changes to centralize services and harmonize regulations among the five local governments.

Province announces \$350K for tourism

In an announcement that had initially been anticipated in the summer, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Lisa McLeod makes a virtual announcement of \$350,000 for Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization, which includes Haliburton County.

Ministry investigates blast

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks began in an investigation into a large blast at a pit on North Shore Road that sent reverberations throughout Algonquin Highlands and other parts of the county.

Destination plan complete

Haliburton County councillors receive the final destination development plan from consulting firm MMGY NextFactor, the plan making numerous recommendations including stronger local workforce development and greater alignment between the activities of municipal council and private businesses.

Warden vote ends in tie

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Daniels becomes Haliburton County warden for the third consecutive year after her name is drawn from an envelope following a four-four vote by members of county councillors to determine who would become warden for 2021. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin also put his name forward. In accordance with the county's bylaw, the task of drawing the name was left to Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, who noted, "This is not fun," as she drew the name.



Aurora and Jadyn Hamilton get a chance to chat with Santa Claus at Christmas in the Village at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Saturday, Nov. 21. The event included a chance to visit local vendors, sample delicious holiday treats and meet St. Nick. In the evening, a special German Christmas inspired event was held with lights around the heritage village lit up. /JENN WATT Staff

Boxing Day lockdown announced

In a Dec. 21 press release, Premier Doug Ford announces that amid continuing high numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the province, the government will enact a shutdown commencing Dec. 26. It means that many types of businesses including most retail locations will have to close their doors, with options for curbside and delivery services. Restaurants and bars are prohibited from offering indoor or outdoor dining, reverting to takeout, drive-through and delivering services. Most manufacturing and construction work is permitted to continue, and childcare centres remain open.

Housing development proposed for Water Street

The owners of the former Beaver Theatre along Minden's Water Street speak to Minden Hills councillors regarding their proposal for the property, which would include the construction of a mixed-use residential and commercial building, containing apartments as well as commercial space on the ground floor. Requiring more planning information, the issue is scheduled to come back to the council table in January.

Tough times for theatre

After not opening at all during 2020, Highlands Cinemas owner Keith Stata says that depending on the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic and what provincial restrictions are by the time summer of 2021 arrives, he's unsure about the future of the beloved seasonal theatre. "We need to open next year and if we don't, we have problems," Stata tells the *Times*.

Municipalities close facilities

With news of the provincial shutdown, the townships of Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands announce they will close their administrative offices and some other facilities to the public, reverting to phone or email interaction between residents and municipal staff amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

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Haliburton Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Award
J. Douglas Hodgson Citizenship Award
Legal Studies Award
Mathematics Award for Year 3 Functions
Sherman Taylor Environmental Award
Sid Cooper Memorial Scholarship
Sid Cooper Memorial Scholarship
Year 3 Drama Award
Year 3 English Scholarship
Year 3 English Scholarship
Year 3 French Award
Year 3 Hospitality and Tourism Award
Year 3 Extended French
Year 3 yearbook Award
100.9 Canoe FM Radio Bursary
American History Award
Anna English Bursary
Aramark Nutrition Bursary
B.J. Fowler Memorial Bursary
Bamforth Bursary for Nursing
Barkhouse Bursary
Basil Hewitt Memorial Bursary
Bill and Sandra Valentine Memorial Bursary
Bill Medland Music Award
Bob Herlihey Memorial Bursary
Brenda Ann Chambers Award
Brenda Lee Ripley Memorial Bursary
Byron Bain Award
C. Jean Levis Calculus Award
C. Jean Levis Memorial Award for Mathematics
Community Living Trent Highlands Developmental Services Bursary
Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands Bursary

Canadian History Award
Canadian International Law Award
Canadian Parents for French - Extended French Award
Canadian Parents for French - Core French Award
Catholic Women's League of St. Anthony of Padua Bursary
Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. Bursary
Clarence McInerney Memorial Bursary
Clayton and Phyllis Hodgson Citizenship Bursary
Community Living Trent Highlands Award
Cooperative Education Program Award
Dale Robinson Award
Daniel and Pauline Otto Bursary
Daniel and Pauline Otto Bursary
Dawson Gray Accounting Scholarship
Dawson Hamilton Memorial Award
Donna Jennings Memorial Bursary
Earl and Jan Shipley Memorial Bursary
Edge Imaging Highlander Yearbook Scholarship
Environmental Leadership Award
Eric Nystedt Memorial Award (female)
Eric Nystedt Memorial Award (male)
Ethel L. Curry Award
Extended French Scholarship
F. D. Herlihey Memorial Scholarship
Ferguson Millar Arts Bursary

Florence Hunter Bursary
Fred Waller Bursary
Gary G. Brohman Award for Student Leadership
Gary G. Brohman Award for Student Leadership
George H. Thayer Memorial Bursary
Gloria Lemieux Award
Gloria Lemieux Award
Gloria Lemieux Award
Gloria Lemieux Award
Good Samaritan Award
Governor General's Academic Medal
Guitar Programme Award
Haliburton County Development Corporation Bursary
Haliburton County Folk Society Award
Haliburton County Food for Kids Scholarship

Recipient
Colleen Petric
Trinity Walker
Colleen Petric
Colleen Petric
Cooper Lloyd
Colleen Petric
Mya Jones
Colleen Petric
Colleen Petric
Colleen Petric
Jacob Miller
Sophie Longo
Owen Nicholls
Riley Bacon
Jocelyn Chumbley
Matthew Stata
Jackson Wilson
Courtney Semach
Ryenne Horsley
Courtney Semach
Brayden Grooms
Jocelyn Chumbley
Olivia Melle
Hudson MacArthur
Megan Klose
Brooke Stover
Matthew Stata
Hudson MacArthur
Grace Hudson
Emma Miller
Emma Thompson
Ryenne Horsley
Anthony Stead-Miller
Jacob Wagg
Stefan Salaris
April Kovacs
Bence Suranyi
Jasmine Moghini
Megan Klose
Daniella Meraw
Daniella Meraw
Joshua Hogg
Dakota Sawyer
Justin Hagopian
Bence Suranyi
Samuel Hoenow
Emma James
Daniella Meraw
April Kovacs
Wyatt Hutchings
Bence Suranyi
Mackenzie Tidey
Destiny Wilson-Wells
Brady Baldry
Abigail Kauffeldt
Jessica Jones
Bluma Holtzman
Lane Brohm
William Craftchick
Michal Swiezawski
Morgan Burke
Benn MacNaull
Nicholas Graham
Charlotte Paton
Rebecca Archibald
Jocelyn Babineau
Siddhi Shah

Nick Toth
Nigel Smith
Rebecca Archibald
Isaac Little
Bianca Salaris
Benjamin Domerchie
Rebecca Archibald
Jessica Byers
Kendra Graham
Braeden Robinson
Bianca Salaris
Ruthie Parker
Brayden Rodgers
Bianca Salaris
Tevin Sullivan
Jonas Moghini
Krystin Hope
Erik Morrison
Ethan Gohm
Melissa Brinkos
Nigel Smith
Jessica Byers
Charlotte Paton
Abigail Kauffeldt
George Devolin

Austin Morris
Braeden Robinson
Hailey Brisco
Brayden Rodgers
Finn Tentrees
Abigail Kauffeldt
Erik Morrison
Grace Kim
Trista Greer
James Alexander
Charlotte Paton
Lane Brohm
George Devolin
Lane Brohm
Sophie Longo

Donor
Eagle Lake Women
Eagle Lake Women
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Judy McKenna
Judy McKenna
Loyal Orange Lodge #975
Neil & Judy McKenna
Sam Little and Marina Thomazo
Jennifer Paton
Drama Club of H.H.S.S.
Chris Duchene
HHSS Hospitality & Tourism Program
Agnes Jamieson Gallery
Mr. John Stouffer
Mr. John Stouffer
Chris Duchene
Paul and Sharon Morissette
Paul and Sharon Morissette
Michael Easton Enterprises Ltd
Emmerson Lumber Limited
Ladies' Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Debra Lyons
H.H.S.S. Students' Council/Payne-Fawcett Families
Mrs. Louise Cooper
Ms. Jessica Lloyd
Drama Club of HHSS
Ms. Jessica Lloyd
HHSS Hospitality & Tourism Program
Mr. Gord Schakelaar, Assante Financial Management
Dan & Ginny Marsden
Jackie Mayhew
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Ladies' Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion
Anne and Andrew Hodgson
Mr. David A. P. Shapiera
Jennifer Paton
Canning Lake Property Owners' Ass'n
Mrs. Louise Cooper
Mrs. Louise Cooper
Drama Club of H.H.S.S.
Mrs. Ann Varty
Mrs. Ann Varty
Sam Little and Marina Thomazo
HHSS Hospitality & Tourism Program
Mrs. Rebeka Borgdorff
Trish Wootton
Canoe FM Radio
Paul Longo
H.H.S.S. Scholarship Fund
Aramark Canada Ltd.
Mrs. Bonnie Hoenow
Dr. Alexander Kennedy
Mary Anne Barkhouse
Kirk Hewitt and Family
Mrs. Sandra Valentine
Mrs. Donna Medland
The Family and Friends of Bob Herlihey
The Estate of Brenda Ann Chambers
Friends and family of Brenda Ripley
Chev Buick GMC Ltd
Teaching Staff of H.H.S.S.
The Levis Family
Community Living Haliburton County
Canadian Federation of University
Women Haliburton Highlands
Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd.
HHSS Social Science Department
Canadian Parents for French, Haliburton Chapter
Canadian Parents for French, Haliburton Chapter
C.W.L. of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Haliburton
Anne and Andrew Hodgson
H.H.S.S. Scholarship Fund
The Hodgson Family
Community Living Haliburton County
Chris Duchene
Dale Robinson
Hilda Pauline Otto
Hilda Pauline Otto
Dawson Gray Chartered Accountants
Matthew Duchene
Royce & Samantha Miller
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Edge Imaging
Paul and Sharon Morissette
Minden Detachment, O.P.P.
Minden Detachment, O.P.P.
Family of the Late Ethel Curry
Cleve & Liane Roberts
The Late F. Harold Herlihey
Former CD Ferguson, Marge Ferguson & Jean Lang
Millar Awards
Ruth Phillips
Melissa Stephens and Walter Tose
Gary Brohman
Gary Brohman
H.H.S.S. Scholarship Fund
Estate of the late Gloria Lemieux
Estate of the late Gloria Lemieux
Estate of the late Gloria Lemieux
Estate of the late Gloria Lemieux
The Knights of Columbus
The Governor General of Canada
H.H.S.S. Bands
Haliburton County Development Corporation
Haliburton County Folk Society
Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Haliburton County Road Supervisors' Association Math Award
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Bursary
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation Bursary
Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association Bursary
Haliburton Highlands Museum History Award
Haliburton Home Builders Award
Haliburton Lake Cottagers' Association Bursary
Haliburton Legion Award for Communications Technology(Yearbook)
Haliburton Legion Bursary for Trade Apprenticeship
Haliburton Legion Military Training Bursary
Haliburton Legion Scholarship
Haliburton Lumber Award
Haliburton Paramedics Local 4435 Bursary
Haliburton Veterinary Services Bursary
Hazel R. Newman Memorial Bursary
Heat Line Tradesperson Bursary
HHSS Bursary
HHSS Bursary
HHSS Citizenship Award (female)

HHSS Citizenship Award (male)

HHSS Memorial Bursary

HHSS Science Department Scholarship for Science
Highlands Festival Singers Bursary
Highlands Wind Symphony Music Bursary
Indigodragonfly
J. B. Trepanier Memorial Bursary
J. Douglas Hodgson History Award
Jean Herlihey Memorial Bursary
Jeff Hutchings Memorial Bursary
John Burton Memorial Award
John Heffer Memorial Award
Joseph and Florence Dollo Memorial Bursary
Joyce Williams Memorial Scholarship for English
Joyce Williams Memorial Scholarship for English
Keith Burns Music Bursary
Ken Wilson Bursary
Laurie Bacon and Valerie Cowan Memorial Award
Leslie and Nila Reynolds Memorial Bursary
Lieutenant Governor General's Community Volunteer Award
Louise Cooper Bursary
Margaret Sisson Memorial Bursary
Martha Steen Memorial Award
Mary Medley Memorial Award (1)
Mary Medley Memorial Award (2)
Mathematics of Data Management Award
McKecK's Tap & Grill Culinary/Hospitality Bursary
Minden District Fur Harvesters Bursary
Minden Legion Bursary
Minden Legion Scholarship for Science
Modern Electric Business Bursary
Modern Electric IT Bursary
Music Appreciation Bursary
North Entrance Masonic Lodge Bursary
O.S.S.T.F. Bob Herlihey Bursary
O.S.S.T.F. Education Bursary
Ontario Provincial Police Association #8 Branch Bursary
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Perfect Attendance
Penny Obee Memorial Scholarship
Potter-Wilson Memorial Award
Retired Teachers of Ontario Bursary
Riddell Memorial Environmental Bursary
Robert (Bob) Sisson Memorial Bursary
Rodney Gorveatt Memorial Bursary
Ronald J. Curry Memorial Bursary
Rosie Kenney Award
Rosie Kenney Bursary
Rosie Kenney Bursary
Rosseter Award
Rotary Club of Haliburton 50th Anniversary Award
Rotary Club of Haliburton 75th Anniversary Award
Rotary Club of Haliburton Bursary (1)
Rotary Club of Haliburton Bursary (2)
Rotary Club of Haliburton Mathematics Scholarship
Rotary Club of Haliburton Mathematics Scholarship
Rotary Club of Minden Bursary
Rotary Club of Minden Scholarship
Rotary Club of Minden Scholarship
Russell Andrus Memorial Bursary
Sarah Bloomfield Memorial Award
Sarah Nash Memorial Bursary
Science and Engineering Bursary
Sid Stamp Memorial Bursary
Specialist High Skills Major
St. Paul's A.C.W. Practical Academic Life Skills Program Award
St. Paul's A.C.W. Workplace Studies Award
Stuart W. Baker Memorial Award
Those Other Movies Bursary
Township of Minden Hills Bursary
Varsity Scholastic Excellence
W. R. Curry Memorial Bursary
Will Packard Memorial Bursary
Winifred Campbell Bursary
World History Scholarship
Year 4 Baking Course Award
Year 4 Drama Award
Year 4 English Scholarship
Year 4 Hospitality and Tourism

Abigail Kauffeldt
Benjamin Domerchie
Storm Brannigan
Jurgen Shantz
Austin Morris
Isaac Little
James Alexander
Nikita Watson
Kevin Bunn
Paige Billings
Nigel Smith
Isaac Little
Isaac Little
Storm Brannigan
Morgan Burke
Ethan Gohm
Emma Casey
Jonas Moghini
Melissa Brinkos

Benjamin Domerchie

Alexis Milley

Abigail Kauffeldt
Jessica Byers
Jamie Holden
Seamus Lynch
Bianca Salaris
Hailey Brisco
Emma Casey
Emma Brohm
Rebecca Archibald
Tevin Sullivan
Hailey Anderson
Megan Klose
Melissa Brinkos
Wyatt Hutchings
Codie Wilkinson
Alyssa Bogardis
Hailey Brisco
Bianca Salaris
Ania Smolen
Paige Billings
Mackenzie Tidey
Mackenzie Tidey
Jurgen Shantz
Rebecca Archibald
Destiny Wilson-Wells
Jack Morrison
Codie Wilkinson
Charlotte Paton
Tevin Sullivan
Melissa Brinkos
Braeden Sharp
Jack Merrifield
Samuel Rowden
Hailey Brisco
Stuart Lockwood
Kristina Barry
Ethan Chartrand
Isaiah Donaldson
Oceane Harris
Harmony Moher
Ryan Mee
Bence Suranyi
Ciara Wilson
Charlotte Paton
Siddhi Shah
Charlotte Paton
Hailey Brisco
Charlotte Paton
Abigail Kauffeldt
Bianca Salaris
Austin Morris
Mackenzie Tidey
Grace Kim
Nigel Smith
Charlotte Paton
Jacob Wood
Michael Stephen
Melissa Brinkos
Monique Dulong
Monique Dulong
Charlotte Paton
Alicia Villamere
Rebecca Archibald
Lena Haase
Brayden Rodgers
Destiny Wilson-Wells
Jessica Byers
Nigel Smith
Ellie Burden
Destiny Wilson-Wells
Elijah Campbell
Alex Sharp
Charlotte Paton
Emily Mathers
Mackenzie Tidey
Nigel Smith
Bennet Stephenson
Zachary Morissette
Jessica Byers
Benjamin Domerchie
Holly Parish
Codie Wilkinson
Abigail Kauffeldt
Destiny Wilson-Wells

Haliburton County Road Supervisors' Association
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation
Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation
HHOA
Haliburton Museum
Haliburton Home Builders
Haliburton Lake Cottagers' Association
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129
Haliburton Lumber and Enterprises Ltd.
Haliburton Paramedics Local 4435
Haliburton Veterinary Services
The late Gordon W. Newman
Heat-Line
HHSS Scholarship Fund
HHSS Scholarship Fund
Former Curtis Way, Don Finn, Louise Clark, Emil
Neimann,Hewitt Transport, HH Senior Citizens
Former Curtis Way, Don Finn, Louise Clark, Emil
Neimann,Hewitt Transport, HH Senior Citizens
Family & Friends of Penny Pripp, Rodney Gorveatt ,
Wendy Schell and Jeff Hutchings
Science Department of H.H.S.S.
The Highland's Festival Singers
Highlands Wind Symphony
Indigodragonfly
Teresa Evans & Alan Trepanier
The Hodgson Family
The Herlihey Family
C.U.P.E. Local 997
Paul Kuno
Minden Pharmasave
The Dollo Family
H.H.S.S. Students' Council
H.H.S.S. Students' Council
Highlands Concert Band
H.H.S.S. Scholarship Fund
H.H.S.S. Girls' Athletic Association
Mrs. Carol Reynolds
The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
Haliburton Branch of O.S.S.T.F.
The Sisson Family
Maude Steen
Family and Friends of Mary Medley
Family and Friends of Mary Medley
Bob Schmidt
McKecK's/The Blue Line Assistance Program
Minden District Fur Harvesters
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636
Warren Payne & Wayne Fawcett
Warren Payne and Wayne Fawcett
Mr. William Gliddon
North Entrance Masonic Lodge
Haliburton Branch of O.S.S.T.F.
Haliburton Branch of O.S.S.T.F.
OPP Association #8 Branch
H.H.S.S.
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H.H.S.S.
H.H.S.S.
H.H.S.S.
Bill Obee
The Family and Friends of Eric Potter
Retired Teachers of Ontario, Haliburton
Canning Lake Property Owners' Ass'n
Martin and Victoria Sisson
Mr. And Mrs. Rodney Gorveatt
The Family of the Late Ronald J. Curry
Mrs. Rosie Kenney
Mrs. Rosie Kenney
Mrs. Rosie Kenney
Louise Cooper
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Haliburton
Rotary Club of Minden
Rotary Club of Minden
Rotary Club of Minden
Haliburton Lions Club
Elizabeth Bloomfield
Family and Friends of Sarah Nash
Paige Roberts
Brian and Dorothy Black
T.L.D.S.B.
A.C.W. of St. Paul's Church, Minden
A.C.W. of St. Paul's Church, Minden
Anonymous
Those Other Movies Film Group
Township of Minden Hills
Ronald Clark
The Family of the Late Ronald J. Curry
Mrs. Mary Packard
Neil Campbell
Ms. Catherine Andress
HHSS Hospitality & Tourism Program
Drama Club of H.H.S.S.
Mrs. Chris Duchene
HHSS Hospitality and Tourism Program

Thanks
Countless

2020 Minden Christmas Bird Count reveals fewer birds

by **ED POROPAT**
Special to the Times

The 54th Annual Minden Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, Dec. 19 with 27 field observers counting throughout the selected area, and a further 31 feeder-watchers carefully scrutinizing their backyard feeding stations. This year, the weather was mostly cooperative, with cloudy skies in the morning, giving way to a light snow in the afternoon. With temperatures hovering near the freezing mark, it was a near perfect winter day to be outside.

Overall, over 124 hours were spent observing, ultimately yielding a relatively clear picture of bird populations in southern Haliburton County during the early winter of 2020. So what do the numbers show us?

Well, as expected, the diversity of species this winter appears to be slightly above average, with a total of 47 different kinds observed on count day, and another two species recorded during count week. The 20 year average is about 45 species. This was expected, largely due to the influx of northern finches such as redpolls and grosbeaks. A relatively warm fall and early winter combined with this movement of northern finches increased the diversity in the region.

Conversely, the total number of individuals counted were significantly down, with only 3,724 individuals recorded (well below the 20-year average of 4,282). This general

scarcity of birds in the region can be attributed partially to the lack of food in the woods, especially cone crops. Many feeder-watchers and birders commented on the fact that they had seen many more birds earlier in the winter. Others noted that more birds appeared on feeders during the week after count day. Again, this was somewhat predictable. Although we had a decent influx of finches during the late fall, especially crossbills and siskins, many of these wandering flocks simply cleared out of the region due to the lack of natural food. Presently, these species are frequenting areas south of the Canadian Shield, where they are not commonly observed (much to the delight of birders down there!). The surge of observations on feeders after the count was also expected, as snowfalls and ice covered many food sources, especially weedy fields. This forced local birds to feeding stations. Whether some of the decrease in numbers is actually attributable to declines in species numbers remains to be seen, and will only be apparent over the long term.

Once again, there were a few highlights during count day, as is always the case. Although no new species were discovered for the count this year (it presently sits at 108 species), there were a few notable sightings. One intrepid team was up early to survey for owls and discovered a calling long-eared owl. This was only the second record for the Minden Count. Other owls were also well represented this year, probably buoyed by the



Black-capped chickadee. /Submitted by Ed Poropat

healthy rodent populations. 8 different barred owls were observed, tying the count record. A great horned owl was also heard hooting during the pre-dawn hours. Another nice find was a red-bellied woodpecker that was frequenting feeders in Minden. Although it was only the third count record, it is a species that is increasing both its range and abundance. It will likely become a regularly occurring resident in the Minden landscape. A secretive Northern goshawk, hunting along the Milburn Road, thrilled birders there, as this species is not often observed in the area. A female wood duck, a rare bird in Haliburton County during the winter, was observed with Mallards both before and after the count, but could not be found on the 19. A couple of hardy American robins made use of the abundant fruit trees in and around Minden.

Some bird species appear to be doing very well. Count records were set for both mallard (425) and rock pigeon (292). A quick walk through downtown Minden on any day of the year will testify that the latter species is showing strong breeding success there. Northern cardinals have also had a successful year. There were many observations of this species in late October and November around Haliburton County, and several have decided to spend the winter in the region. A total of 6 birds were found on count day, falling just below the record of seven. Despite relatively low numbers of American tree sparrows and dark-eyed juncos this winter, the high chite-throated sparrow totals were a pleasant surprise (three). The open water along the Gull River has encouraged four belted kingfishers

to overwinter. This also ties a count record.

The movement of winter finches in the province is always intriguing, and is intricately tied to the abundance of food across the north. With poor birch seed crops in the boreal region, common redpolls have irrupted into the southern parts of the province. A total of 92 individuals were observed, although many more were likely in the area. Interestingly, they outnumbered both American goldfinches (75), and pine siskins (0). Both pine and evening grosbeaks were present this year. The former species (141) is being regularly observed this winter, especially around fruit trees. The latter species (75) also made an appearance on count day, although many are still wandering around Southern Ontario in search of cones. A single White-winged Crossbill was recorded by one group.

Our resident bird populations seem to be holding steady. Black-capped chickadee numbers seemed down slightly with 1,172 counted. The 20-year average is around 1,362. Although many red-breasted nuthatches vacated the region during the fall due to a lack of cones, the non-migratory White-breasted Nuthatches were abundant. The 135 observed fell just short of a record (141). Woodpecker numbers were about average. Despite the remarkable exodus of blue jays this fall from the province, 417 were still recorded on count day. Most were visiting feeding stations.

Waterfowl were definitely on the move both on and before the 19. The over-wintering five trumpeter swans on Gull Lake were not a surprise, but the single red-breasted merganser at Moore Falls was a nice find late in the day. Other diving ducks were notably absent, as many departed the area due to the frigid temperatures earlier in the week, icing over many of the lakes. Surprisingly, no vcommon loons were found lingering as they often do.

Wild turkey numbers continue to show a strong population in the area. Although many birds seemed to be hiding on count day, we still managed to record 177 individuals within the circle. Although only five ruffed grouse were recorded on the 19, the numbers appear to be on the rise, as many more were reported by observers during the days following the count.

As always, I'd like to thank all the people that participated in this year's Minden Christmas Bird Count, whether field observers or feeder-watchers. Your sightings not only make this count one of the most successful, but also help contribute to bird conservation across the continent. I wish everyone all the best in 2021 and look forward to your contributions again next December.



Lingering female Wood Duck on Horseshoe Lake.

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER
BROKER

Don't keep me a secret.

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

lisa@lisamercer.ca
cell: 705.457.0364

Follow me on Facebook!

SUDOKU

3				1	5	8		
	9			8		4		
		6		9			2	1
4		2			6	1	3	
				2	1			
9					3			
2	6		5					4
		3		7		9		6
7					4		5	3

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 20

THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

NOTICE OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
VACANT LAND AT HIGHWAY 35 & COUNTY ROAD 21 (PLOZA2020049)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Official Plan & Zoning By-law. The site specific amendments apply to property located west of Highway 35 at County Road 21 (see Key Map below).

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject property is presently zoned Highway Commercial (C1) and is located within the Service and Business Area designation of the Township's Official Plan. The proposed amendments would re-designate and re-zone the property to allow for 30 medium density dwelling units in the form of 15 duplex buildings whereas residences are not otherwise permitted within existing Zoning and Official Plan Designation. The proposed amendments would designate the land for the intended residential use and provide site-specific exceptions to the proposed Residential Type Two (R2) Zoning to allow for 1.3 parking stalls per dwelling, for a total of 40 stalls, of which 2 provide for accessible parking; to permit a 135m. (443') fence (noise barrier) measuring 2.8m. (9'2") in height to be locate along the east property line; to permit a setback from the High Water Mark of 21.3m. (69'11"); and, to allow a lot frontage of 179m. (586'5").

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendments during the Public Meeting.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING – PLOZA2020049

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting and can be accessed by:

Computer or smart phone at the link:
www.tinyurl.com/y25erzac
Passcode: 8Ju6t\$sDRV

Telephone by dialing:
1-647-374-4685
Webinar ID: 811 7298 6145
Passcode: 5968513761
To view the meeting without speaking to Council, the proceedings may be viewed at:
<https://youtu.be/.JWjJe2bE8W4>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or at such time as the Township offices re-open and is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclendening@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext.506).

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the official plan amendment is adopted or the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the official plan amendment is adopted or the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2021
Ian Clendening, Planner
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.

THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

NOTICE OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
MULTIPLE PROPERTIES ON SUMAC TRAIL (PLZBA2020074)

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law. The site specific amendments apply multiple properties on Sumac Trail representing parts 1 through 9 of Plan 19R-5289 (see Key Map below).

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject lands are presently zoned Shoreline Residential (SR) with areas occupying the front ~ 40m. (130') of the lands zoned Hazard Lands (HZ). The proposed amendments would remove the Hazard Lands (HZ) zoned areas to allow for the future development of the four (4) properties subject to the application in accordance with the proposed Shoreline Residential (SR) zoning.

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendments during the Public Meeting.

DATE AND LOCATION OF PUBLIC MEETING – PLZBA2020074

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: This will be held as a virtual meeting and can be accessed by:

Computer or smart phone at the link:
www.tinyurl.com/y25erzac
Passcode: 8Ju6t\$sDRV

Telephone by dialing:
1-647-374-4685
Webinar ID: 811 7298 6145
Passcode: 5968513761
To view the meeting without speaking to Council, the proceedings may be viewed at:
<https://youtu.be/.JWjJe2bE8W4>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or at such time as the Township offices re-open and is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclendening@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext.506).

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

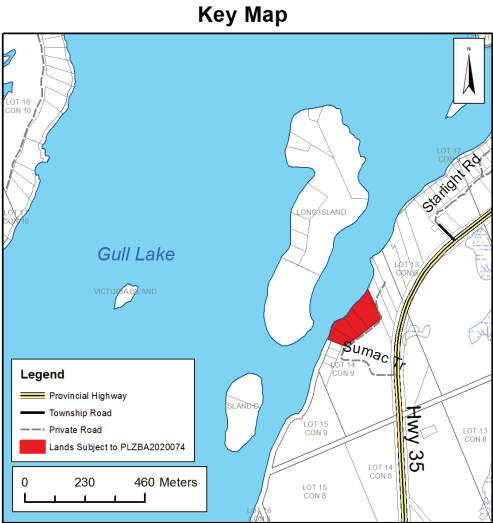
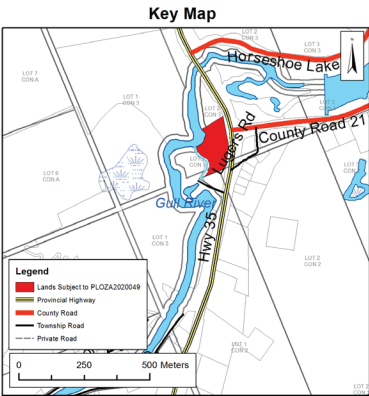
IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE DECISION of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at iclendening@mindenhills.ca.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2021
Ian Clendening, Planner
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

Please note: paper submitted to the Township is being held for three (3) days before opening. If providing comment, please consider making an electronic submission to the e-mail address above, or, make specific reference to the Application Number on the outside of the envelope.





County of Haliburton
Notices

2021 Budget

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that Haliburton County Council will be reviewing the 2021 Budget on:

- Monday January 11, 2021 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at a Special Council Meeting

And that further 2021 budget discussions will occur thereafter at regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole and Council meetings until the budget is approved.

- Wednesday January 20, 2021
- Wednesday February 10, 2021
- Wednesday February 24, 2021
- Wednesday March 10, 2021
- Wednesday March 24, 2021

Michael Rutter, CAO/County Clerk
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 223
Fax: (705) 286-4829
e-mail: mrutter@county.haliburton.on.ca



Taking a hike in Algonquin Highlands

Highlands resident Darby Bayly is greeted by her puppy Asta while out hiking on the snow covered Leslie Frost hiking trails on Sunday, Dec. 27, south of Dorset. Nordic skiing and snowshoeing trails are also available. See the Algonquin Highlands website (algonquinhighlands.ca/ski-snowshoe-trails.php) for more information./DARREN LUM Staff



PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicants: Kreuzwiesner
Lot 15, Concession 7, Hall's Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of Lot 15, Concession 7 and part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 15, Concession 7, Hall's Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of Lot 15, Concession 7 and part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 15, Concession 7, Hall's Lake, described as all and singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

- FIRSTLY:** THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 15, Concession 7, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10418.
- SECONDLY:** THAT part of Lot 15, Concession 7, described as Part 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10418.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **21st day of January, 2021** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

PLEASE NOTE: The office is currently closed to the public. Any person wishing to speak to this matter must contact the Planner to register and obtain further information.

Dated: January 6th, 2021

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicants: Leneveu/Chrow
Lot 22, Concession 10, Little Hawk Lake,
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 22, Concession 10, Little Hawk Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) those parts of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 22, Concession 10, Little Hawk Lake, described as all and singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

- FIRSTLY:** THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 22, Concession 10, described as Part 4 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10413.
- SECONDLY:** THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 22, Concession 10, described as Part 5 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10413.
- THIRDLY:** THAT part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 22, Concession 10, described as Part 6 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10413.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 21st day of January, 2021 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

PLEASE NOTE: The office is currently closed to the public. Any person wishing to speak to this matter must contact the Planner to register and obtain further information.

Dated: January 6th, 2021

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

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4	7	2	9	5	6	1	3	8
6	3	8	7	2	1	5	4	9
9	1	5	8	4	3	6	7	2
2	6	1	5	3	9	7	8	4
5	4	3	2	7	8	9	1	6
7	8	9	1	6	4	2	5	3

Lakefront Property Owners,

Are you aware of the proposed Shoreline Bylaw that the County of Haliburton is currently moving forward with? If not, please feel free to go to the Haliburton County Home Builders Associations website to view the latest draft. Here are a few points that should interest you if you own lakefront property:

- The County wants to have control over all lakefront property that is within 30 meters of the high-water mark.
- To complete a project within that 30-meter zone there is a possibility that the property owner may need to spend in excess of \$10 000.00 hiring professionals for an approval (*land surveyor, landscape architect, arborist, environmental engineer etc.*) There is still no guarantee that after spending this money that your project will receive approval.
- Estimates have the cost at \$750,000.00 per year for the implementation of this shoreline bylaw. This will trigger a tax increase.

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca



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Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub

Nurse Practitioner
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The Nurse Practitioner functions in an expanded role demonstrating a high level of autonomy and is responsible for: conducting client assessments; diagnosing; ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests; prescribing pharmaceuticals and performing specific procedures within the legislated scope of practice. Working in collaboration with the inter-professional team, the NP will ensure a timely response to a client's changing health status and needs and provide direct patient care focusing on health promotion. Evening and some weekend work will be required as well as a valid driver's license and police record check.

Assets for this position

- Good initiative and interest in program development as it is a role that requires some growth in order to improve access and utilization of the resources.
- Experience working with LGBTQ2 populations and Indigenous populations
- Experience in sexual health and trans positive care
- Primary care experience
- French language
- Experience in mental health and substance use with a focus on harm reduction.
- Knowledge of Haliburton County community

The Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub is committed to employment equity, inclusion, and diversity, and welcomes applications from Indigenous persons, persons who are visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual or gender orientation.

Please send resume by Jan. 8th, 2020 to:

Mary Sisson
Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub Manager
Point in Time, Centre For Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Ave., Haliburton ON. K0M 1S0
marys@pointintime.ca

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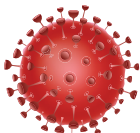
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COVID-19



Due to the pandemic's 28-day provincial lockdown both of our offices will be closed to the public until Monday, January 25th. Our newspapers will still be printing as usual during this time.

To place an ad please contact:
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It is with sadness to report the passing of

Dan Verbaan on December 21, 2020 at the age of 32.

Beloved son of Julia Moore and Art Verbaan, elder brother of Michael, partner of Shelbie and devoted father to their daughter, Aubrie. Loved grandson of Sonya Holliday-Rhodes and Dr. Anthony Holliday-Rhodes and additional grandfather Victor Disik. Special mention to Uncle Nick (Holliday-Rhodes) for soliciting prayers for Dan and family of Pastor Ralph and his flock. Special mention to Paul Reng (pre-deceased) for all his earlier support of Dan. Thanks to Aunt Isabella and Uncle Billy (Scotland) for the wonderful times they gave Dan when he stayed with them. Thank you to Uncle Chris (Holliday-Rhodes, predeceased) for entertaining Dan and his brother when they visited grandma when they were young, by playing games with them and teaching them soccer. Stay Safe!



In Loving Memory of

Mabel Irene Deacon

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at the age of 98.



Predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Eldon Deacon. Dear mother of Barbara Todd (Jim-deceased), Patsy Lancaster and Sue Ripley (Doug). Loving grandma to Jason (Sheri), Chris (Christina), Donald, James (Jes),

Robert, Kari (Dallas), Ben (Lynsay), Cheryl (Joel) and great grandma to Madelaine, Ashtyn, Jeremy, Keaton, Grady, Layne and Zoe. Survived by her sister Shirley Ysinga (Bert-deceased) and sister-in-law of Jean Sutherland. Predeceased by her parents Geo and Daisy Sutherland, her sisters Ethel Marshal, Dorothy Reid, Pearl Bakalar and Milo Sutherland. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends

A Service to Celebrate Mabel's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 will be held in the Spring a time and date will be announced. Spring Interment at Minden Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation for Hyland Crest Residents Council (HHHSF-Hyland Crest Residents Council) or to the Highland Hills United Church would be appreciated by the family.



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The Times

Minden

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Wednesday, January 19, 1983

Municipality applies for official plan

Anson, Hindon and Minden township council has applied to the Ministry of Housing for a municipality-wide official plan. The resolution approving the application was endorsed at a special meeting of the council Thursday evening.

Representatives of the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Natural Resources were in attendance to discuss the planning program for the municipality. At the moment the township is in the middle of a major revision of its zoning by-law. However, both ministries have indicated they will present formal objections to the revised by-law if it fails to recognize the hazard land area adjacent to the Gull River as it flows through Minden.

The challenge to the by-law had brought the revision to a virtual halt. In an effort to correct errors in the first edition of the draft, and to satisfy some of the objections with regard to recreational zones, the municipality had to virtually rewrite the by-law which was circulated last spring.

However, there appeared to be little chance that the final zoning by-law would satisfy either provincial ministry, so further objections were expected.

The meeting Thursday evening appears to have smoothed those rough waters.

In agreeing to obtain an official plan for the municipality, the council has also agreed to apply for an engineering study under the Ministry of Natural Resources to determine the extent of the area which could be affected by a flood, what impact additional development in this area would have on the severity of any flooding and other matters related to a flood situation.

The two provincial ministries have also agreed to endorse in principle that the area in Minden which could be affected by the flood would be granted Special Policy Area (SPA) status, which would ease some of the tough restrictions on development in an area which has been designated a hazard zone.

The SPA could not be granted previously because the municipality did not have an official plan.

In addition to embarking on an official plan for the municipality, a special committee of councillors and representatives from the Ministry of Housing will be established to determine what should be done with the half completed revision to the zoning by-law. The by-law will likely have to be changed again once an official plan is established, so that it agrees with the direction of the official plan.

A special committee will also be established to set the guidelines for the official plan study.

The council was told that the Ministry of Housing will provide 75% of the cost of an official plan. The municipality will be responsible for 10% of the engineering study to determine the flood impact area. The question of how much of the cost of the zoning by-law revision will be picked up by the Ministry of Housing is still up in the air. The

ministry agreed to pay for a certain amount but if it is decided that the revision should not continue until an official plan is in place, several members of council wondered how much of that cost the ministry would absorb.

(An official plan is a statement of policy which lays out the direction development in the municipality is to take.

While it may deal with specifics, its scope is often more broad. A zoning by-law is the mechanism by which an official plan is implemented. It details through maps and regulations, what type of development can take place and where. A zoning by-law contains details on building standards, setbacks and other mechanics involved in the

development within a municipality.)

The members of the council were obviously pleased when the request for an official plan was endorsed unanimously.

They exchanged congratulatory hand shakes with the ministry official saying the move was an important and positive one for the township.

Parents will be informed of vaccination options

Parents whose children are required to have vaccinations against mumps, measles and rubella will now receive a letter explaining the options available to them. The move was instituted by the Haliburton County Board of Education following a concern raised by county doctors over the need to immunize students twice against measles and rubella.

The issuing of the letter of

explanation will affect Haliburton village parents only, since it was only students in that community who had received the initial request form. Plans to circulate a similar request form for students at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden have been altered to include the letter which Haliburton area parents are now receiving.

The seven doctors in the

county had objected, in a letter to the editor which appeared in last week's edition of The Times and Echo, to the giving of a vaccination containing protection against the three diseases when some students only required protection against mumps.

The letter which is now being sent home for parents to

(more on page 2)

Skaters earn proficiency awards

On Tuesday, January 11, members of the Minden Figure Skating Club attended CFSA Test Day in Bancroft.

The following is a list of skaters and their accomplishments:

Sandy Bailey - Swing Dance; Wana Blakey - Second Figure; Lisa Box - Canasta Dance; Abby Burk - Preliminary Free Skate, Dutch Waltz; Misti Campbell - Preliminary Free Skate, Swing Dance; Lisa Carr - Ten Fox Dance; Dianne Garbutt - Dutch Waltz; Canasta Tango; Jennifer Gentle - First Figure, Fiesta Dance, Willow Dance; Julie Hall - Swing Dance; Sara Lee Henderson - Preliminary Free Skate, Swing Dance; Joanna Obee - Preliminary Figure, Preliminary Free Skate, Canasta Tango, Swing Dance; Tammy Jo Pritchard - Ten Fox Dance; Jennifer Tomlinson - Dutch Waltz; Tanya Willis - Swing Dance, Ten Fox Dance, Fiesta Tango; Christina Irwin and Joanne Kerr also entered.

A total of fifty-two tests were tried by Bancroft, Bob-

(more on page 2)



The skaters who participated in the test at Bancroft are: front, left to right, Tammy Pritchard, Tanya Willis, Diane Garbutt, Janna Obee, Sara Henderson, Abby Burk, and Lisa Carr. Back row: left

to right, pro Jane Symons, Lisa Box, Jennifer Tomlinson, Misti Campbell, Christa Irwin, Wana Blakey, Jenni Gentle, Julie Hall and Andrea Burk, pro.

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